ISBN978-4-592-14511-0
C9979 ¥467E
雑誌 44325-47
定価 本体467円+税
白泉社

主人公は、東京の下町に一人で暮らす、17歳のプロの将棋の棋士＝桐山零。
しかし、彼は幼い頃、事故で家族を失い、深い孤独を抱えた少年だった。
そんな彼の前に現れたのは、あかり・ひなた・モモの3姉妹。
彼女たちと接するうちに零は…。
様々な人間が、何かを取り戻していく優しい物語です。
（平成20年2月刊行）

message

羽海野チカ

私の大好きな川辺りの風景と
たくさんつめ込んだこの三月町の物語
零君と三姉妹を見守っていただけたら幸せです

ヤングアニマル ANIMAL 毎月第2・第4㊐第1㊎発売
ヤングアニマル Aria 嵐 毎月第1・第3㊎発売

March comes in like a lion

3月のライオン 1 羽海野チカ

Chica Umino

3月のライオン 1

羽海野チカ

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March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

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Publisher	Hakusensha
Magazine	Young Animal

3月のライオン

川本
大山

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

羽海野チカ

将棋監修●先崎学八段

1

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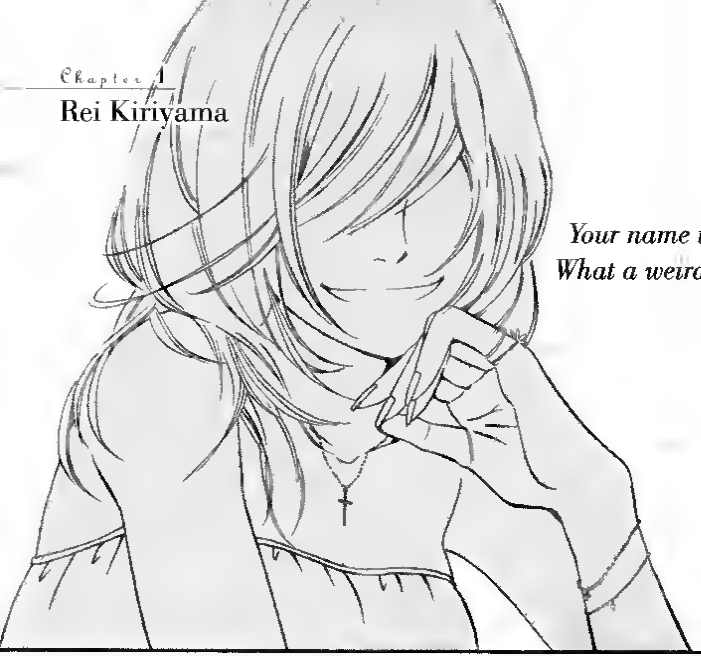
Chapter 1
Rei Kiriyama



No home.

No relatives.

No school.

No friends.

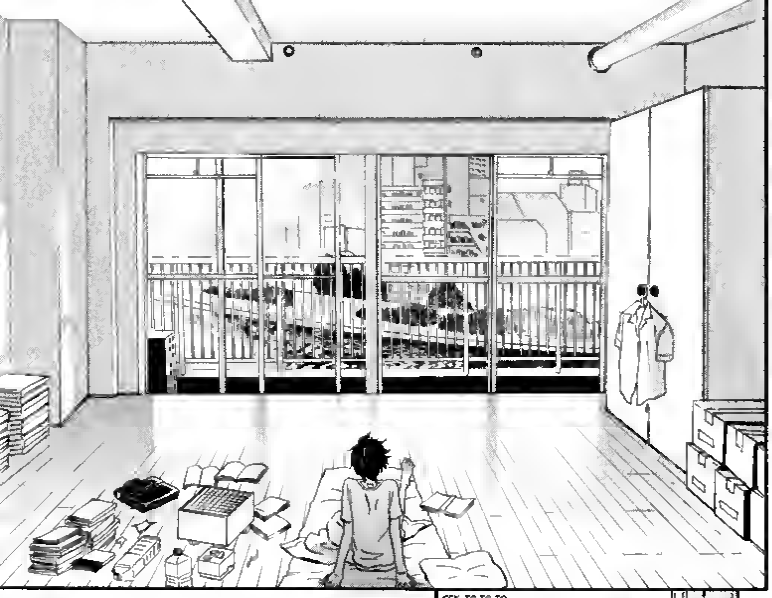
But it fits you well.

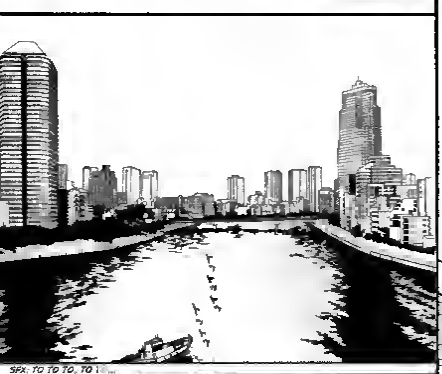
What, did I say something wrong?

See, the place where you belong,

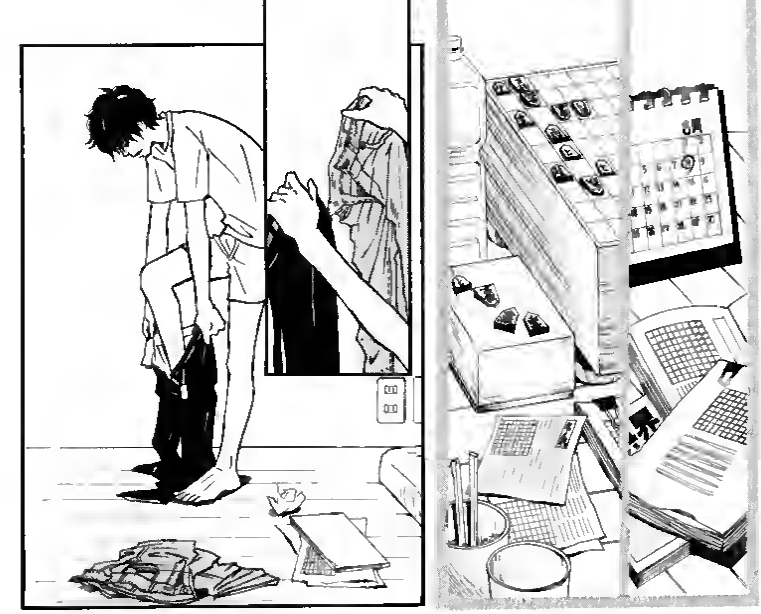
you can't find it anywhere in this world.

Right?





SFX: TO TO TO



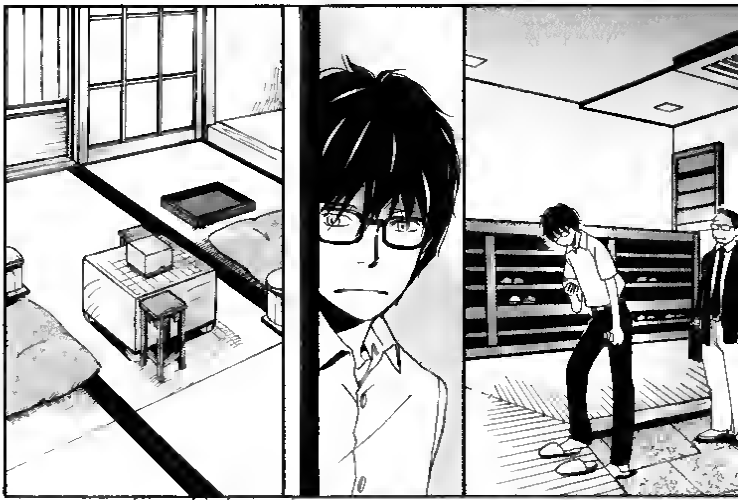
SFX: TAN TAN

カンカンカン
カンカンカン
SFX: KAN KAN KAN KAN KAN KAN...
SFX: TATAN TATAN
SFX: PA— PAPPA— GO—

パ
パ
ゴ
タタタ…
50
TOKYO

SFX: TATAN... KATATAN...
SFX: TATAN... TAN...
せんだがや
SENDAGAYA
パパパ
SFX: PAPAA

SFX: GATATON
ガタトン
将棋会館
Shogi Academy



SFX TON

SCROLL: BEING AT PEACE IS THE WAY
平常心是道
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN, REI?

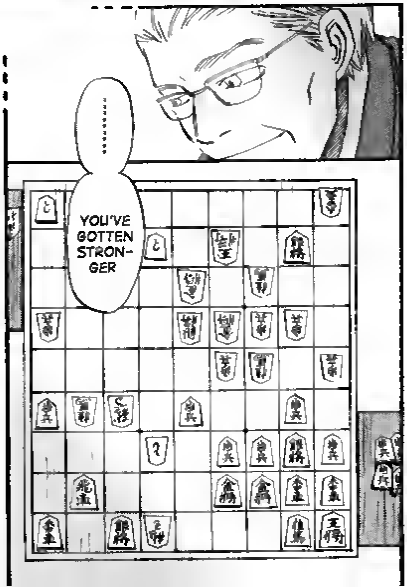
SIBIN JS SHOJI COMPETITION
MM...
NOW ISN'T THE TIME TO BE TALKING ABOUT WEATHER
.....
IT'S NOT EVEN THE RAINY SEASON YET...
HOT, ISN'T IT?
LET'S BEGIN
SO,
SFX. SU...
SFX. PACH
SFX. SU...

SFX: PACH!
銀将
歩
SFX: PACH!
将棋大会
Shogi Competition

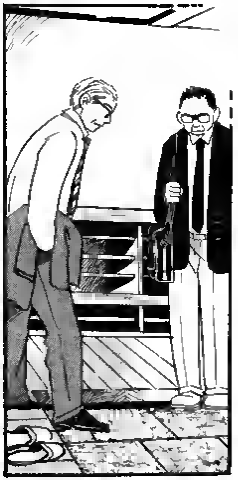
SFX: PACHI
SFX: PACH
SFX: PASHI
HM,
NO
"SOB"
NOTHING...

I HAVE LOST

HAVE YOU BEEN EATING PRO-PERLY?


YOU'VE GOTTEN STRON-GER

YOU LEFT SO SUDDENLY...
AYUMU AND KYOKO
HAVE BEEN VERY WORRIED ABOUT YOU.



LIAR
SFX: GATAN TOTON TOTON TATAN
ガタン
トトン
トトン

SFX: PIPPI...PIPPI
ピピピ…
ピピピ
SFX: PI...
ピッ……
FROM: Hinata
✉Kiriyama-kun
Good work☆
Tonight we're eating curry. Come over and eat with us!! Everyone's waiting for you. See you in a bit \[^o^]/☆
Hinata…

WHILE TYPING THE MESSAGE
HE RECEIVED A MESSAGE
RE: Kiriyama-kun
Thank you for your invite, but I'm going to head home today because I don't feel well...
Ack...
プルルルー
ビクッ
SFX: BEKUU BU BU BU PURURURU~
SFX: PI
.....
* FUKUJINZUKE IS A PICKLE COMMONLY USED AS A RELISH IN JAPANESE CURRY
FROM: Akari
Rei-kun we're in trouble!!
We were going to make curry but we ran out of fukujinzuke!! Can you go to the convenience store and get some for me please? And eggs too!!
.....

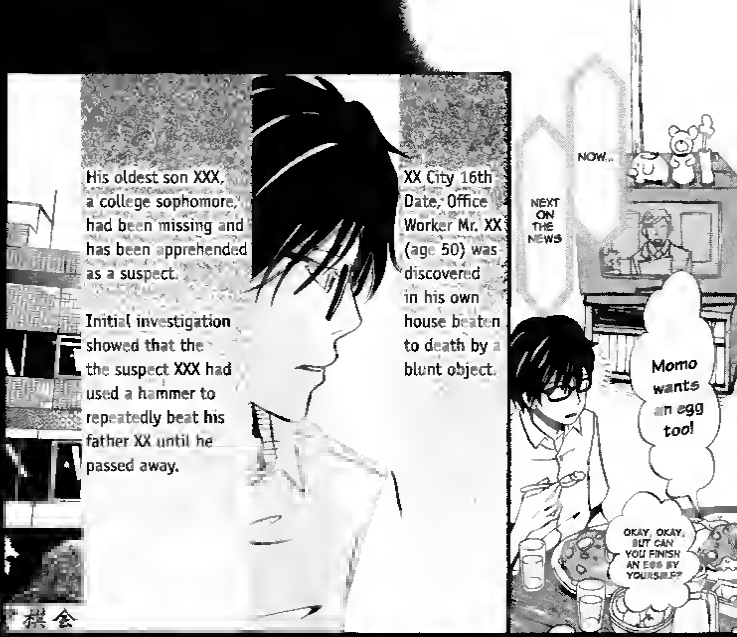
SIGN
TSUKI NO YU
(A PUBLIC
BATH HOUSE)
THANK YOU FOR
YOUR PATRONAGE!
SIGN
ONIGIRI
.....
SFX: GASA GASA

Ah,
Rei-chan's
here!☆
SFX: MY

ICE CREAM AND PUDDING
OH HERE
HEY, MOMO!
NOT HINA TOO! REALLY—
PUDDING! ☆
Ice cream! ☆
ぽかーん
Rei-chan, where's my ice cream?
NOW WE CAN START DINNER—
THANK YOU!
NYA~
REI-KUN, HURRY UP!! I'M HUNGRYYY
SFX: HANA-I
SFX: MIGYA—
SFX: MOCCHI!
SFX: MOMA—
I'M GOING TO MAKE SOME SPACE IN THE FRIDGE FOR THE ICE CREAM.
OH IT'S JUST A LITTLE GIFT
I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO BUY...
So I just bought a lot
Wah-! Milk pudding! Waaah-!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
YOU BOUGHT ALL THIS?!
YOU MUST'VE SPENT A LOT OF MONEY ON THIS
OH, THAT'S RIGHT
REI-KUN, HOW WAS THE COMPE-TITION?
SFX: BYUN
SFX: NYA—
SFX: DADA—

SFX: FUU
ONEI-SAN SAID
IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT COMPETITION FOR YOUR [illegible]B.
.....
I WON.
REALLY?
THAT'S GREAT!
SFX: GI NYA— GOHAN ROHAN
Aiyah...
I'M HOLDING A STEAMING POT, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS
HINA— COME HELP ME FEED THE CATS--
It would be really dangerous if the pot spilt
COMING!
SFX: TSUU
Hurry Hurry Hurry Hurry Hurry
Ahhh... Onei-san! Rice...rice... Rice...I need rice...!
I've had nothing else yesterday except water.
LIAR
ONEI-CHAN— REI-KUN WON—!☆
.....
REALLY...

EH? WHAT?
AH HEY, HINA!
MAMA AND GRANDMA BOTH LOVED CURRY A LOT...
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING WITH THAT CURRY?!
Momo will eat a hot spring egg~
SFX: KYA—
COME, LET'S EAT
Mmm
SFX: KARI KARI
SFX: HARU HARU
SFX: KA KA
SFX: KATA KATA KATA
MAMA— GRANDMA— TODAY'S CURRY FLAVOR IS PORK BELLY!
Momo loves curry too!☆
IT'S NOT PRO-PER
BUT...
WELL... I GUESS THEY DID LIKE IT...
I ALREADY TOLD YOU... CURRY... IS...
ITADAKIMASU~!☆
LET'S EAT!!
OH, WHATEVER
SHIN SHA SHRINE
TWO POSTS OFFERING


His oldest son XXX, a college sophomore, had been missing and has been apprehended as a suspect.
Initial investigation showed that the the suspect XXX had used a hammer to repeatedly beat his father XX until he passed away.
XX City 16th Date, Office Worker Mr. XX (age 50) was discovered in his own house beaten to death by a blunt object.
NEXT ON THE NEWS
NOW...
Momo wants an egg too!
OKAY, OKAY, BUT CAN YOU FINISH AN EGG BY YOURSELF?
SHIN SHOGI ACADEMY
棋会

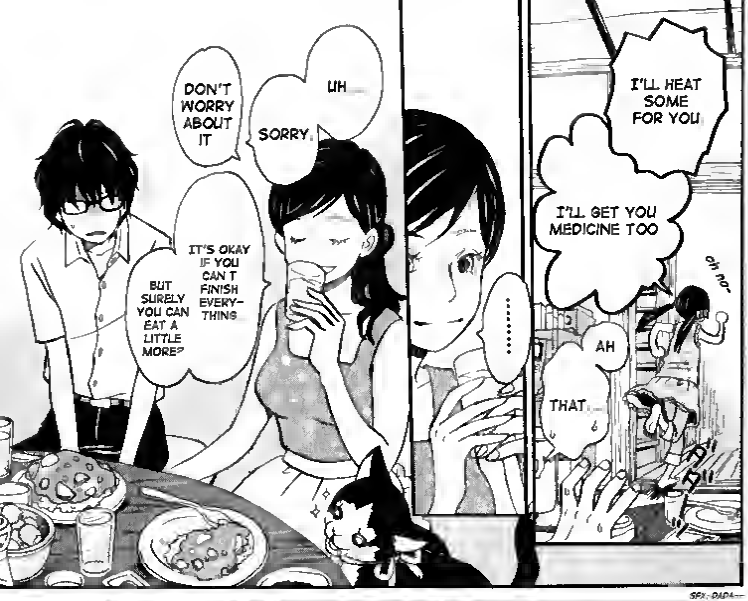
Beat his father's head and face repeatedly...

LOOK AT IT THIS WAY
HE WAS BEATEN BY HIS OWN SON FROM ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE MAYBE THIS WAS WHAT HE WISHED FOR
IF THIS CONTINUES, HE COULD LOSE THE MATCH IN THE NEXT ROUND.
KOUDA-SAN SHOULD BE FULL OF REGRET NOW...
IT TOOK HIM SO LONG TO FINALLY ENTER THE RANKING COMPETITIONS...

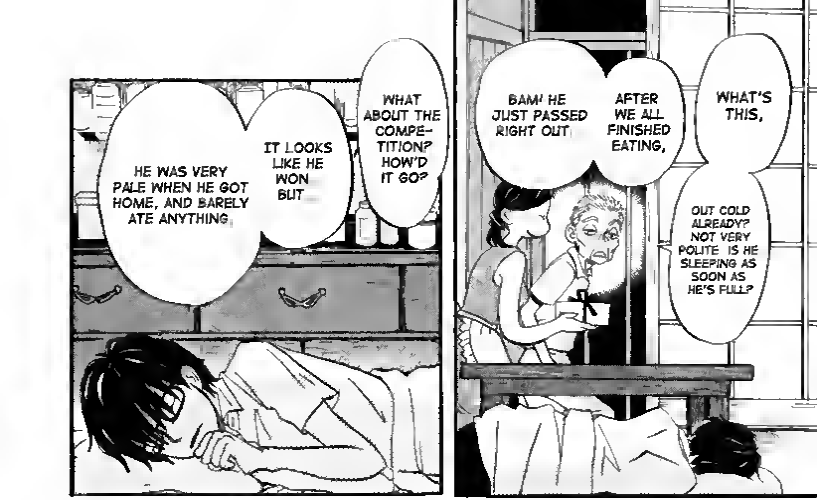
Suspected to have been pounded to death with a hammer...

REALLY...
IF IT'S HIS OWN SON... THEN IT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT.
Move by move, it felt like I was hitting him with my bare hands.
I could almost feel the heat of his skin.

REI-KUN, WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE YOU COLD?
Dad...
ARE YOU OKAY?
DID YOU CATCH A COLD?
EH?
AH...
DO YOU WANT SOMETHING HOT TO DRINK? MILK?


I'LL HEAT SOME FOR YOU
I'LL GET YOU MEDICINE TOO
oh no
AH
THAT...
.....
UH...
SORRY.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
IT'S OKAY IF YOU CAN'T FINISH EVERY-THING
BUT SURELY YOU CAN EAT A LITTLE MORE?
SFX: DADA—

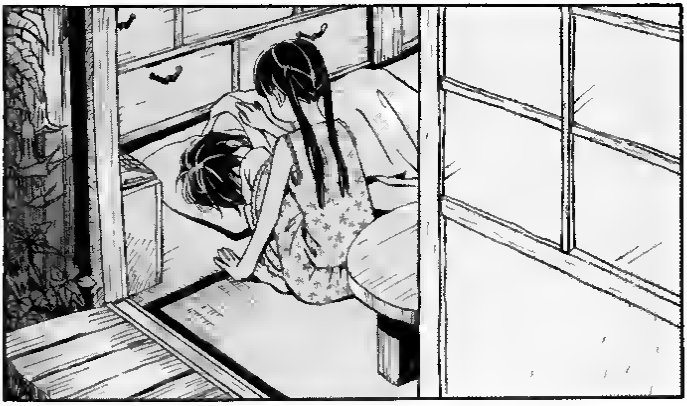
YEAH...
OH?
SFX: GARA
ガラッ


WHAT'S THIS,
AFTER WE ALL FINISHED EATING,
BAM! HE JUST PASSED RIGHT OUT.
OUT COLD ALREADY? NOT VERY POLITE. IS HE SLEEPING AS SOON AS HE'S FULL?
WHAT ABOUT THE COMPE-TITION? HOW'D IT GO?
IT LOOKS LIKE HE WON BUT...
HE WAS VERY PALE WHEN HE GOT HOME, AND BARELY ATE ANYTHING.

* DORAYAKI IS A JAPANESE CONFECTION OF TWO LAYERS OF CASTELLA PANCAKE-LIKE PATTIES SURROUNDING A FILLING OF RED BEAN PASTE

THAT'S ONLY TO BE EXPECTED.
WELL LET HIM SLEEP.
—I'LL BE HEADING BACK, THEN. I HAVE TO MAKE RED BEAN PASTE TOMORROW.
HONESTLY... I BET HE DIDN'T SLEEP A WINK LAST NIGHT EITHER.
REMEMBER TO LOCK THE DOOR!
NIGHT, GRANDPA. TOMORROW I'LL COME HELP MAKE THE DORAYAKI.*
OH, EXCELLENT. G'NIGHT, THEN.

SFX SO—
I'VE BROUGHT YOU A BED SHEET—
AH—
HIS GLASS-ES
ZU—



—Kiriyama Rei
That is my name.
This little building next to the river in this city is the place I have to live in from now on.
GOOD NIGHT.

Chapter 1 end

NOTES from the translators

Page 007

Rei means 'zero' in Japanese, carrying a connotation of nothingness.

Page 035

This is a shogi manga so terms like 'dan' will often crop up. Dan is a rank system used in Japanese arts, reserved for high level practitioners. For example, in karate, 'dan' rankings are levels within the black belt rank. There are ten 'dan' levels, and higher the number, the greater your level, so of this were karate Rei would be a fifth-degree black belt.

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

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Publisher	Hakusensha
Magazine	Young Animal

3月のライオン

Chapter 2

The City on the River

chun chun chun...
(translation: whee, it's morning)
chi chi chi...
(trans: super morning)
CHIRP CHIRP
CHIRP CHIRP
SFX: KYA, KYA
SFX: JIB
…じー
UH...
...AN OWL?
……
Staring at me...
It's definitely staring at me...
じー
YOU'RE... YOU'RE A CAT, RIGHT?
SHOULD BE...
OWLS DON'T RANDOMLY APPEAR IN PEOPLE'S HOMES, RIGHT?
AND TO SUDDENLY APPEAR ON THE TATAMI
...IT'S NOT POSSIBLE, RIGHT?
SFX: JIB

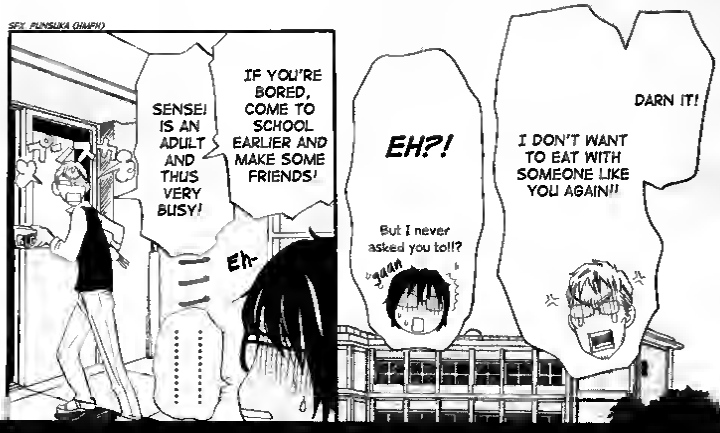
SFX: DADADADAA
OH NO, I'M GONNA BE LATE!! GOOD MORNING, REI-KUN!
G-GOOD MORNING!
SFX: HAHAHAA
SFX: BYUN
O-OKAY!
HERE!
BED HEAD
PLEASE MIX THIS IN TOO!
OK-AY!
sweat sweat
HERE'S AN EGG!
SFX: KA KA KA
SFX: BAN
.....
I'm going to be late, but it's so yummy~
WHY DID I SLEEP IN SO MUCH?!
ONEI-SAN TOLD ME TO WAKE UP A LONG TIME AGO.
SFX: KIPPARI (BLUNTLY)
SINCE YOU'RE AWAKE,
MOMO AND I WILL BE GOING-
We're going!
I'LL BE GETTING UP... NOW...
Have a safe trip~
SFX: KAKAKA KAKAKA KAKAKA KAKAKA

SFX: BYUN
ビュンッ
Eh? You're still eating?
SFX: KYAAA
キャ
BUT THERE'S ONE MORE BOWL~
THERE'S NO MORE TIME~
OH NO~
SFX: GORORI
Y-YES! TH-THANK YOU!
THAT'S HUGE!
ごろり
GIGANTIC
※SPEAKING LOUDLY BECAUSE HE'S BEEN AFFECTED BY HER ENTHUSIASM.
BENTO! ☆
IT'S KINDA BIG, BUT IT'S VERY DURABLE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
AH!
REI-KUN, TAKE THIS!
SFX: DON
ドン
SFX: BABAAN!
ばばーん!!
And for a side dish, take this!
Th-th-thank you!
はっし!!
It's really good!
SFX: HASSHI!!
EH? WHAT ABOUT THE KEYS?
Eh~?!
THEN I'LL BE LEAVING FIRST!
EAT SLOWLY!

THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
IT'S OKAY! IF THERE ARE NO KEYS, WE'LL JUST FIND A RANDOM PLACE TO COME IN!
W-WAIT...
IF I TAKE THE KEYS, NO ONE ELSE WILL BE ABLE TO COME BACK IN.
LOCK THE DOOR AFTER YOU GO OUT! I'M LEAVING IT TO YOU!
OH RIGHT!! THEN—
HERE!
ガーン
ビシイッ
ぽぽーい
SFX. GAAAN!!
SFX. BISHI
SFX. POPO!!
SFX. KASA
SFX. OSSHIRI
tick tock tick
tick.tock.tick
ホゾーン...
ミノーン...
ナスー
Looks like Akari-nee-chan gave them as much breakfast as they wanted.
SFX. KUSUU KUSUU
I REALLY WANT TO...
GO TO SCHOOL...

SFX: KIIN KOON KAAN
キーン コーン カーン
EH?
SFX: HAHAHA
WHAT'S WRONG, KIRI-YAMA?
THAT'S A PRETTY BIG ONIGIRI YOU'VE GOT THERE. IS IT SUPPOSED TO BE A SOCCER BALL?
SEN-SEI...
MUST BE NICE, HAVING RICE.
AT THE END OF THE MONTH I ALWAYS RUN OUT OF MONEY, SO THIS IS ALL I'VE GOT.

HEY KIRIYAMA, DO YOU GUYS GET PAID EVERY MONTH?
OR DO YOU GET PAID PER MATCH?
OH, IT'S MONTHLY
IT'S USUALLY DEPOSITED INTO THE BANK
AT THE END OF THE MONTH
I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU OVER THE INTERNET.
Let's see... Kinyu Tournament. Ouchou Tournament. Newcomer Tournament.
BUT, YOU'VE BEEN WINNING AND MOVING AHEAD A LOT SO YOU HAVE A LOT OF MATCHES DON'CHA.
one two three
HEY, KIRI-YAMA.
ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO THINK ABOUT THIS,
COULD IT BE THAT YOUR MONTHLY INCOME IS HIGHER THAN MINE?
.....
SFX: EHH?
SFX: OH/MP
SFX: WAHH
DAMN YOU!
Wah!!


SFX: PUNSUKA (HMPH)
IF YOU'RE BORED, COME TO SCHOOL EARLIER AND MAKE SOME FRIENDS!
SENSEI IS AN ADULT AND THUS VERY BUSY!
Eh-
EH?!
But I never asked you to!?
DARN IT!
I DON'T WANT TO EAT WITH SOMEONE LIKE YOU AGAIN!!

Kiriyama was admitted to school a year late.
Spring was coming to an end.

I was really startled at the time.
I was also surprised that nobody else noticed, but...

Perhaps, in a school that doesn't even have a shogi club, it will be easier for his classmates to accept him.

WHAT COULD HE BE THINKING ABOUT?
THE BOY WHO WENT PRO IN MIDDLE SCHOOL
EVEN THOUGH HE'S SUPPOSEDLY A GENIUS,
HE STILL HAS THE SAME PROBLEMS AS ANY OTHER 17-YEAR-OLD KID.

Even though he was a kid, the request was explicit.

SHIN MIKAZUKI HALL
三日月堂
WELCOME~
SHIN QUALITY PASTRIES
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, GO WASH YOUR HANDS AND COME BACK HERE
YOU'RE JUST IN TIME, COME HELP US OUT
I'M GOING TO PUT ON THE RIBBON, SO PUT SIX IN EACH BOX, THEN STACK THE BOXES, OKAY?
AH, SURE
PUT THREE KIMIAN AND THREE TSUBUAN IN EACH BOX
OKAY
OH, REI-KUN, YOU'RE BACK
WAS THE ONIGIRI GOOD?
三日月焼
MIKAZUKI CAKES
SHIN SHAN SHAN

THAT'S HOW I MADE THE STAMPS TO PRINT THESE
I CUT UP POTATOES!
ACT-UALLY, HINA MADE THESE HERSELF. ARE YOU SURPRISED?
IT'S NOT PHOTO-COPIED... LOOKS EXPENSIVE
ISN'T THE PACKAGING ADORABLE?
Aren't they cute?
お祝い
*CONGRATULATIONS
SO THIS IS HINA'S PRESENT FOR HIM
WHEN HINA WAS STILL IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SHE TOOK CALLIGRAPHY LESSONS FROM THAT TEACHER,
ME!
Of course, it's Hina-chan.
Who drew this?
千と千尋の神隠し
Uf-uf-uf-uf-u~
A TEACHER'S 70TH BIRTHDAY PARTY, IT'S PRETTY RARE TO HAVE A CELEBRATION LIKE THIS
THIS GIFT IS FOR GRAND-FATHER'S FRIEND,
CALLIGRAPHY SEN TO CHIHIRO NO KAMIKAKUSHI (SPIRITED AWAY)
IT'S PART OF SOMEJI-SAN'S PLAN TO SET A SUCCESSOR
YEAH
SOMEJI-SAN'S GRAND-DAUGHTERS ARE ALL HELPING OUT
HOW LUCKY-

OKAY,
I'M GOING TO MAKE THE DELIVERY
MOMO IS SO SMART☆ AHAHA! HAHA
WOW, ORIGAMI! MOMO IS SO AMAZING, AHAHAHA ☆
LOOK GRANDPA! I FOLDED IT!☆
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
KIDS ARE SO NOISY!
SORRY GRANDPPA HAS A BIT OF A SOFT SPOT FOR HER
JUST A BIT ?
SFX GUCHA GUCHA
SFX GOHON (COUGH)
SFX GARARA
SFX GARA GARA
I HAVE ANOTHER MATCH, AND IF I DON'T PRACTICE...
THANKS,
BUT I'M GOING HOME NOW.
SO MANY MATCHES! GOOD LUCK!
REALLY?
A-AND THANK YOU FOR THE ONIGIRI
It was delicious.
GOOD LUCK!
LETS GO HOME
ガラガラ
ガラ……
REI-KUN, WANT TO EAT DINNER WITH US?
AFTER THAT, I'M GOING TO THE PARTY I'M LEAVING EVERYTHING TO YOU GUYS
BYE BYE

OH, AND HERE
THESE ARE OUR "MIKAZUKI CAKES" THEY WERE JUST MADE, SO THEY'RE REALLY GOOD~
ALL RIGHT. GOOD NIGHT.
COME OVER ANYTIME YOU WANT~
WE'LL BE WAITING~
GOOD NIGHT~
Do your best~
SFX: LION
SFX: MUCHIN
SFX: KIRIRI
IT'S STILL NOT HERE YET.
FUFUFU FUFUFU...
SFX: WAKUI
MATCH NOTIFICATION LETTER
KIRIYAMA REI-SAMA
KIRIYAMA REI-KUN.
IS THIS WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

SFX: BISHU SFX: KIME SFX: KIRI!
I WANTED TO GIVE YOU THIS LETTER BY HAND!
THE DAY HAS FINALLY COME FOR US TO BATTLE ON A PUBLIC STAGE...
SO... YOU OPENED MY MAILBOX?
ANOTHER PERSON'S MAILBOX WITHOUT PERMISSION?
NIKAIDOU-SAN...
SO I CAME OVER HERE
THIS ARRIVED AT MY HOUSE AND I ASSUMED THAT IT WOULD BE AT YOUR HOUSE TOO
SFX: KII KII KII KII KII KII!
YOU'VE OPENED THE ENVELOPE TOO!!
THAT'S A CRIME YOU KNOW!
TO KIRIYAMA REI-SAMA
MATCH NOTIFICATION
TIME: JULY 1ST
OPPONENT: NIKAIDOU 4 DAN
LOCATION: TOKYO
DATE: HEISEI 19 JUNE 14TH (2007)
THE TRUE BATTLE STARTS NOW!
THIS IS WHERE IT REALLY STARTS!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...
IT'S TRUE THAT IT TOOK ME AN EXTRA TWO YEARS TO GET TO FOUR DAN BUT...
SFX: PIN PO~N
GOOD NIGHT!
WELL THEN, SEE YOU AT THE MATCH
UP UNTIL TODAY I'VE BEEN WORKING HARD STUDYING UNDER MOONLIGHT AND READING BOOKS WITH THE LIGHT OF FIREFLIES, COMFORTING MYSELF THAT I WAS THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO SUCCEEDED LATER IN LIFE... BUT IT IS TRUE THAT I AM INDEED A GENIUS...
SFX: FUFU FUFU FUFU
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, IT WAS TEN YEARS AGO THAT I MET YOU AT THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S SHOGI TOURNAMENT AND DECIDED YOU WERE MY ETERNAL RIVAL...

HEY! LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!
THAT'S MY LINE!
ACCEPT THIS FROM MY HAND, THIS LETTER OF A DECLARATION OF WAR IN THE FORM OF A CHALLENGE!!
I'LL SPEAK TO THE ADMINISTRATION DIRECTLY OVER THE PHONE, SO IT'S OKAY!!
YOU'RE SO CRUEL!! KIRIYAMAAA, AREN'T WE BEST FRIENDS?!
SFX: GU GU GU GU GU GU GU
SFX: GAGON GARON
I NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THAT!!
Best friends!?
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM!!?
THAT'S HOW IT NORMALLY IS, ISN'T IT!? RIVALS OVERCOME HARDSHIP WITH HARD WORK,
AND IN THE END, THEY HIGH FIVE!☆ (※FIGURE 1)
AND THEN SAY "BEST FRIENDS!", GO WITH THE FLOW OF IT!
※ FIGURE ONE
RANTING
BEST FRIENDS
HARD-SHIP
FRIEND-SHIP
IT'S A PRINCIPLE OF SHOUNEN MANGA!!
EXCEPT THAT IN THAT KIND OF SHOUNEN MANGA,
CHARACTERS DON'T OPEN OTHER PEOPLE'S LETTERS AND COME OUT GLOATING, DO THEY?
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHERE'S HANAOKA-SAN?
THAT PERSON WHO'S USUALLY WITH YOU?
WHAT? YOU MEAN THAT OLD MAN?
HE'S ON A GREEN VACATION!
Thank you.
for always taking care of the young master

KYAA
FOR 80 WHOLE DAYS?!
DOES THAT MEAN THIS WILD BEAST WILL ROAM FREE FOR THE WHOLE OF THAT DURATION?
Harunobu-sama~ Please be careful before !, Hanaoka, come back and take care of your body~ I'll be back soon!
I GAVE HIM TICKETS TO AN 80 DAY CRUISE AROUND THE WORLD!!
AS THANKS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE NIKAIDOU FAMILY FOR 45 YEARS,
ばばーんっ☆

SFX: MOGU MOGU MORI MORI
THEN WHY DON'T YOU WAIT TILL THE DAY OF THE MATCH AND SEE?
DON'T BE SO CAUTIOUS~
I'LL KNOW ONCE THE MATCH STARTS ANYWAY.
I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU,
BUT HOW ARE YOU GOING TO KNOW THAT I'M TELLING THE TRUTH?
OR WILL YOU START WITH "CHUUZA RYUU" BY MOVING R-BE? OR IF YOU'RE BLACK, WILL YOU USE "GOKIGEN NAKABISHA?"
IF YOU'RE WHITE, WILL YOU START WITH "ITTEZON KAKUGAWARI?"
HEY...
ABOUT THE MATCH COMING UP
Cause m after all (lol)

HE'S NOT LISTENING!
SAVE ME HANAOKA-SAN!!
HMP KIRIYAMA, THIS CAKE IS PRETTY TASTY.
I DON'T GET IT...
WHY SHOULD I HELP YOU MENTALLY PREPARE?
WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE...
I WANT TO BE MENTALLY PREPARED, YOU KNOW?

Chapter 2 end

NOTES from the translators

Page 10

"Mikazuki" is a term that means new moon or crescent moon

Kimian and tsubuan are different kinds of wagashi, traditional Japanese confectionaries served with tea. Tsubuan is a red bean paste made with whole red beans boiled in sugar, while kimian is a wagashi with both red bean paste and an egg yolk paste

Page 16

Hisha is the equivalent of a Rook in chess, but on the shogi board there is only one of them

Unlike chess, in shogi black moves first. The black maneuver "Gokigan Nakabisha" (Central Rook) the white manauvers "Ittazon Kakugawari" (Bishop exchange with one move delay) and "Chuuza ryuu" (named after Chuuza Makoto) are all opening strategies for their respective turns

Notation such as "R-8e" tell you what is being moved (R for Rook in this case) and to which coordinate

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

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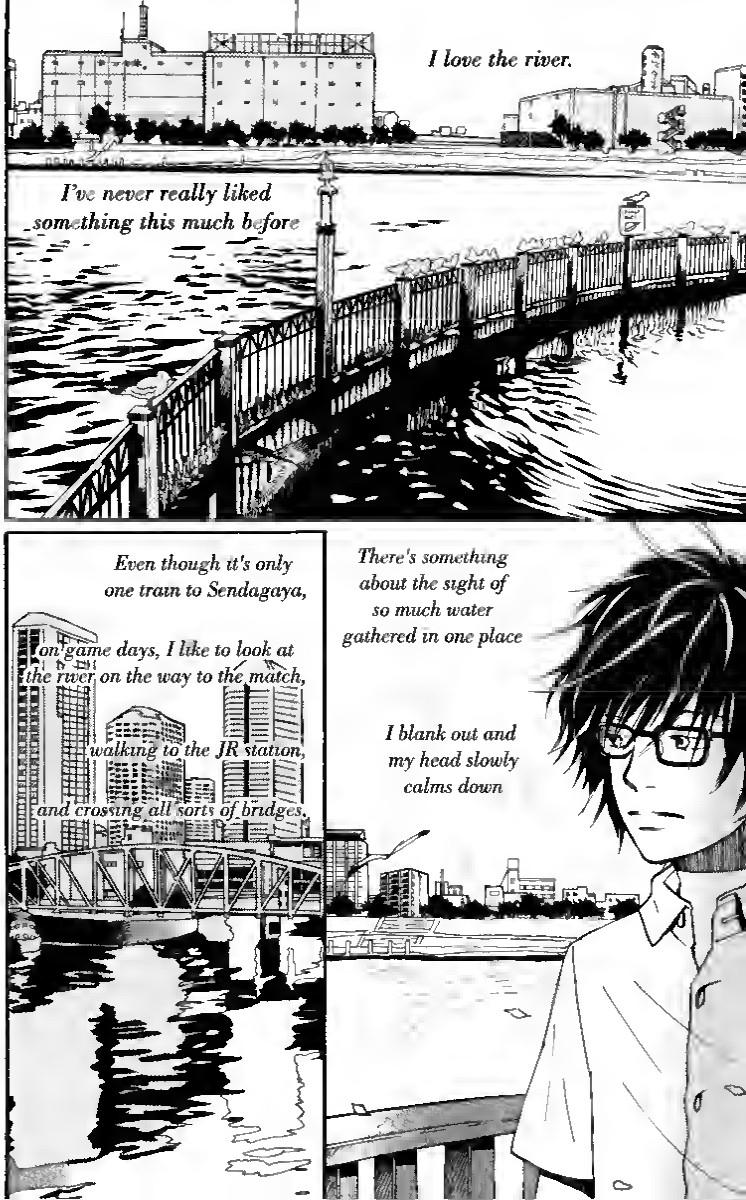
Publisher	Hakusensha
Magazine	Young Animal

3月のライオン

Chapter 3

Akari


I love the river.
I've never really liked something this much before
Even though it's only one train to Sendagaya,
on game days, I like to look at the river on the way to the match,
walking to the JR station,
and crossing all sorts of bridges.
There's something about the sight of so much water gathered in one place
I blank out and my head slowly calms down

It's rather soothing.
Maybe because I lived in a small town surrounded by a river when I was young.
Most of them are single-elimination tournaments used to determine victors, so if you win more matches, the number of matches you have to play will increase.
Other than the Rank Tournament, there are also title matches
Pro Shogi players [illegible] around 30-40 games per year
Those at the top may even have up to 70-80 matches per year.
SFX: TAIATAN TOTOTA
SFX: TAIATAN TOTOTA

If I make it past the preliminaries and into the finals...
The TV broadcasting company is the sponsor for this tournament.
Today's match is the preliminary game for the MHK Cup

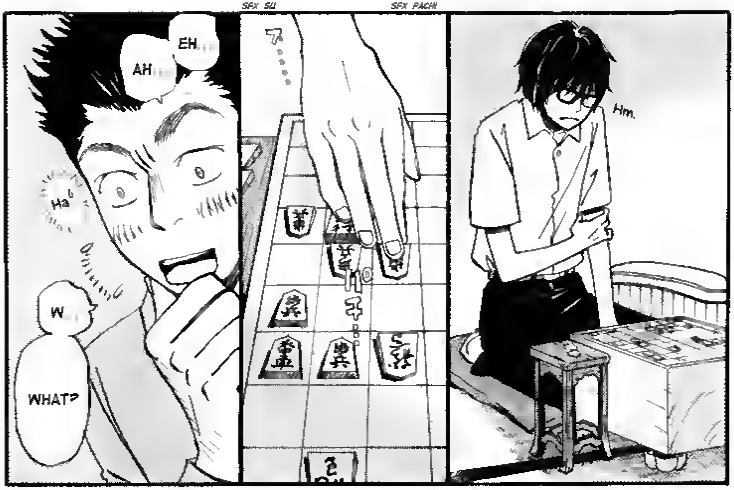
As the name MHK Cup implies...
SFX: PAAN
SFX: BARARARARARA
SFX: BASA BASA
SFX: BATATATA
AHHHHH!!!
SFX: BARARA
SFX: PATA PATA
What?!
Kuruppo!?
SFX: BARARARA
SFX: BARABARA BATATATA
Kuruppoo
Kuruppoo
SFX: KURUPPO, KURUPPO, PO PO PO

it will be broadcast nationwide.
PLEASE LET ME WIN THIS MATCH SPECTACULARLY,
SO I CAN GO ON TV.

HYAAAA!!!!
KIRIYAMAAA!!
I HAVE TO DEFEAT KIRIYAMA-KUN LAVISHLY TODAY USING "MY WAY OF SHOGI"!!
THE FIRE OF MY MANLY SPIRIT WILL ROAST THAT AMOEBA-LIKE "IN-DEPTH READING" TO ASHES!!
Tears in his eyes
Kyaa
SFX: SHOPO
SFX: BA
HEY.
RUNNING AWAY?
WERE YOU TRYING TO RUN AWAY JUST NOW?
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY CALL THAT?
THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL "SPIRITUAL DEFEAT."☆
SFX: GUBI GUBI
His name is Matsumoto Issa.
Class C, Group 2
Age 26
Five Dan
An offensive playing style
You could say he doesn't do anything except attack
I often debate whether he's more like a boat or a ball of fire

じぃっ
じぃーっっっ
UH... UM...
SFX JIII
SFX JIII
SFX BLIN
ビシッ
SFX PAAAA
I... I CAN'T SEE
tearry eyes
ぱぁぁぁぁ
W-What's going on..!?
H-He's scary
SFX FUWA FUWA
ビシィィィ
せあああああ
I SEE IT NOW!!!!! !!!!!!!!!!
SFX WAAAA

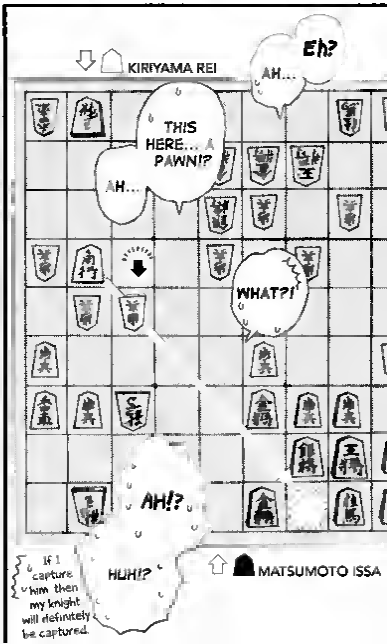
COME ON
Geez...
STOP THAT, ICCHAN
Seriously... That gave me a shock.
パアアン
SFX: SMASH
This is Smith-senpai
Age 26
Class B Group 2
Six Dan
But you should still stop your scare tactics have completely messed up my thinking
HOW NICE OF YOU TO BE SO STRAIGHT-FORWARD
Kendo Club (more or less a monster)
Volleyball Club (monster)
It seems like two giants get along well
+ahhaaa☆
SORRY, SMITH!
I CAN'T HELP IT WHEN MY ADRENALINE RISES!
SFX: MOOYAAA
SFX: KURIN
SFX: KURIN
SFX: DOKU DOKU
KIRIYAMA REI PIECES IN HAND SNP4
MATSUMOTO ISSA PIECES IN HAND SNP
WELL!? HOW'S THAT KIRIYAMA-KYUN!?
フハハ
SFX: FUHAHA HUFF HUFF



M BLACK R 9a
K WHITE B-6f
M BLACK P 5g
K WHITE N-5e

M BLACK G-4h
K WHITE N-6g+
M BLACK L 5h
K WHITE S-5i

M BLACK S*4g
K WHITE S-4h+
M BLACK G-4h

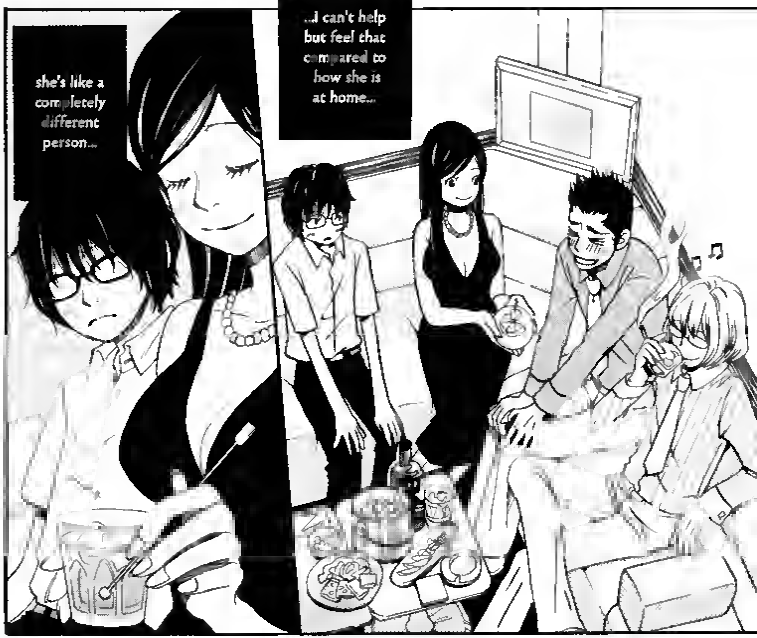


KIRIYAMA REI PIECES IN HAND P3

MATSUMOTO ISSA PIECES IN HAND 5N

HE WANTED HIS GRANDFATHER IN THE COUNTRYSIDE TO SEE HIM WIN...
AND THE NHK IS BROADCAST ALL OVER JAPAN...
RECENTLY, HE WAS ADMITTED TO A HOSPITAL DUE TO ILLNESS...
どんぴしゃり...
MY, MY...
WHEN ISSA WAS A CHILD,
HIS GRANDFATHER WAS THE ONE TO FIRST TEACH HIM SHOGI
DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE AKARI-SAN?
AKARI-SAN!?
What!?
KIRIYAMA'S GOING TO TREAT US! ☆
CHEER UP, ICCHAN.
HEY

Akari-suwawa~n
Parallel motion
(5cm per second)
SFX: FUWAWAA
Floating
WHY ME!?
I'M STILL UNDERAGE!!
IT'S NOT GOOD FOR A KID TO HAVE TOO MUCH MONEY, OKAY?!
If you can't drink alcohol there's always juice!!
T-treating!?
Ah! There's also fruit! ☆ Even though that's a bit expensive ☆
If Ichan doesn't raise his standards, he should have more self-respect!!
SFX: KYAA
WEL-COME
AH...
IT'S MATSUMOTO-SAN AND SMITH-SAN
EVEN KIRIYAMA-KUN'S HERE.
SFX: PEKORI...
HELLO~
AH, AKARI-SAN! LONG TIME NO SEE!
OH, SHE'S STILL AS BEAUTIFUL AS EVER!!!

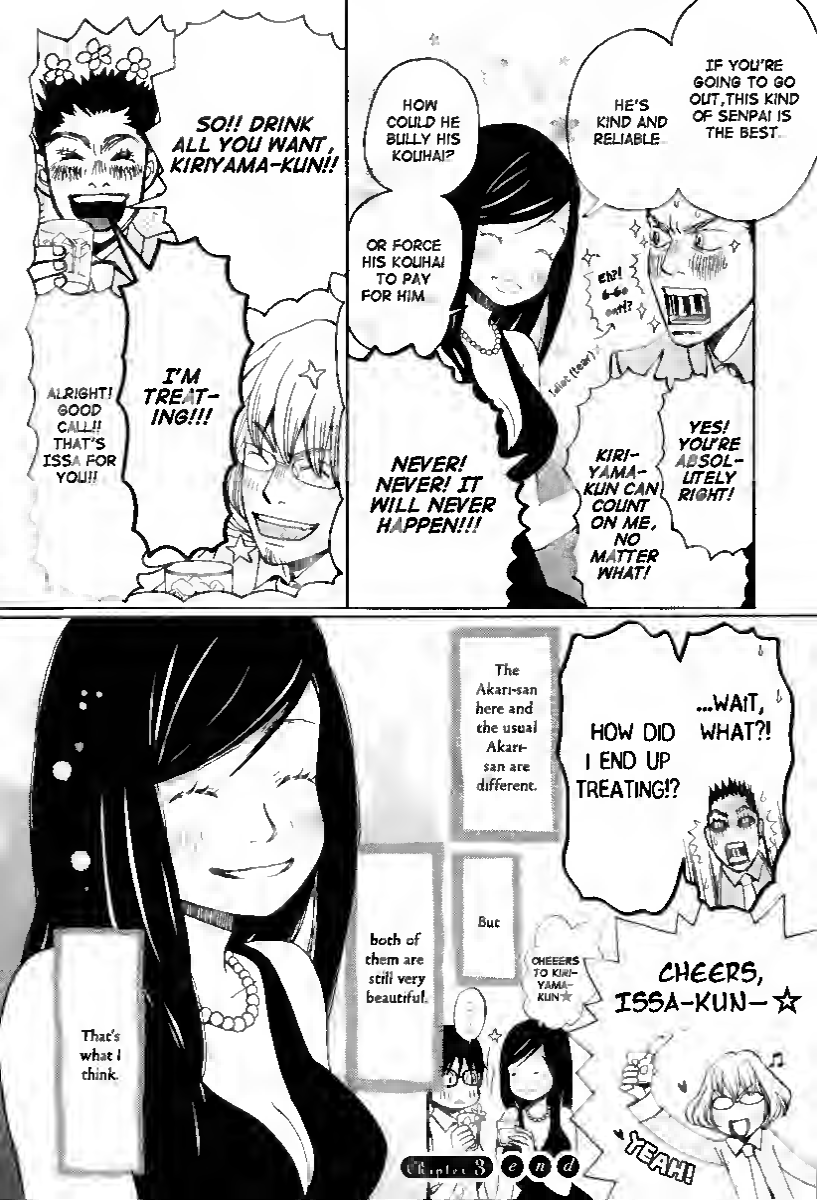

she's like a completely different person...
...I can't help but feel that compared to how she is at home...

Could it be that...
they really are two different people...?
HERE
ORANGE JUICE FOR KIRIYAMA-KUN
SIPPP

SFX: KARAN
...NO.
NEVER-MIND.
THEY REALLY ARE THE SAME PERSON.
Women really are amazing..
SFX: PON
THANK YOU FOR HELPING US WITH THE WRAPPING LAST TIME.
SFX: AU AU
...uuu
EVEN THOUGH THERE'S GOOD ALCHOHOL...
HOW NICE, KIRIYAMA-KUN~
TO BE ABLE TO PLAY WITH SUCH AN INTERESTING SENPAI TODAY~
AND HE'S NOT FORCING YOU TO DRINK ALCOHOL.
ALRIGHT! MY SPIRIT'S ARE HIGH AGAIN!!
WE'LL DRINK 'TIL WE CAN'T DRINK ANYMORE!! KIRIYAMA-KUN!! ARE YOU PREPARED!?
(As the person who will be paying)
YEAH! FIGHT!!
BUT I'M BEING FORCED TO PAY.
And this is... Ginza here.
OF COURSE NOT. HOW COULD I DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!? FORCING SOMEONE TO DRINK ALCOHOL!!

AND THERE ARE SUCH HORRIBLE SENPAI...
WHO FORCE KIRIYAMA-KUN TO DRINK WHEN THEY'VE BEEN DEFEATED BY HIM.
AND THEN ABANDON HIM IN FRONT OF THE STORE...
ARE YOU OKAY?
WHERE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO WERE WITH YOU?
DID THEY JUST LEAVE YOU HERE ALL BY YOURSELF?
.....
HERE.
HAVE SOME WATER.
WHERE DO YOU LIVE?
RO.
ROKU-GATSU-CHOU.

SFX: GAN GAN KURA KURA
AH,
IT'S NEAR-BY.
I LIVE IN SANGATSU-CHOU.
CAN YOU WALK?
WAIT, WHAT?
YOU'RE SO THIN!
NO WAY ARE YOU LIGHTER THAN ME?!
ONEI-CHAN, HE'S AWAKE!
That was my first time meeting them, yet I had such a feeling of nostalgia in that old house...
UH...
UM...
HE'S AWAKE!
THIS...
THIS IS...?
How I met the three sisters
Hina-chan and Momo-chan too...
This is how Akari-san and I...
AH
YOU'RE AWAKE
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME MISO SOUP?


SO!! DRINK ALL YOU WANT, KIRIYAMA-KUN!!
I'M TREAT-ING!!!
ALRIGHT! GOOD CALL!! THAT'S ISSA FOR YOU!!
HOW COULD HE BULLY HIS KOUHAI?
OR FORCE HIS KOUHAI TO PAY FOR HIM
NEVER! NEVER! IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN!!!
HE'S KIND AND RELIABLE
IF YOU'RE GOING TO GO OUT, THIS KIND OF SENPAI IS THE BEST
Eh? A-Ao out?
(blue (tear))
KIRI-YAMA-KUN CAN COUNT ON ME, NO MATTER WHAT!
YES! YOU'RE ABSOL-UTELY RIGHT!
...WAIT, WHAT?!
HOW DID I END UP TREATING!?
CHEERS, ISSA-KUN—☆
The Akari-san here and the usual Akari-san are different.
But
both of them are still very beautiful.
That's what I think.
CHEEERS TO KIRI-YAMA-KUN☆
♪YEAH!
Chapter 3 end

NOTES CONTINUED from the scanlators

Shogi Notation

We have converted the original Japanese notation into the Western notation. The first letter stands for the piece moved (ie. P = pawn) the symbol after (ie. - or *) describes the type of move, followed by the square it was moved to (ie. 4e). Usually near the middle of the game, pieces are then promoted, and this noted by adding a "+" after the square it was moved to (ie. 4e+).

Legend

- \- move with no captures or drops
- * piece was dropped
- \+ piece was promoted
- = piece that could have been promoted was not promoted

K - King
G - Gold General
S - Silver General
N - Knight
L - Lance
B - Bishop
R - Rook
P - Pawn

For instance, on page 07 Rei's pieces in hand are SNP4, meaning he has a silver general, a knight, and four pawns.

NOTES from the translators

Page 02

JR stands for Japan Railways. Japan Railways Group consists of seven corperations that provide rail service to the entire country.

Page 03

MHK refers to NHK, Japan's public broadcaster, similar to what the BBC is to the United Kingdom. MHK Cup refers to the real NHK Cup.

The Rank Tournament (Jun i Sen) is the preliminary round of the Meijin Tournament. The rank of Meijin, along with Ryuu-ou, are the most prestigious titles in the field. Such titles are granted annually and there is only one at a time.

Page 13

Ginza is an expensive upmarket area of Tokyo, and one of the most luxurious shopping destinations in the world. Brands the likes of Louis Vuitton, Channel, or Prada have all set up gigantic stores here.

Page 14

Rokugatsu-chou is literally *the June neighborhood*.

Page 15

Sangatsu chou is literally *the March neighborhood*.

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

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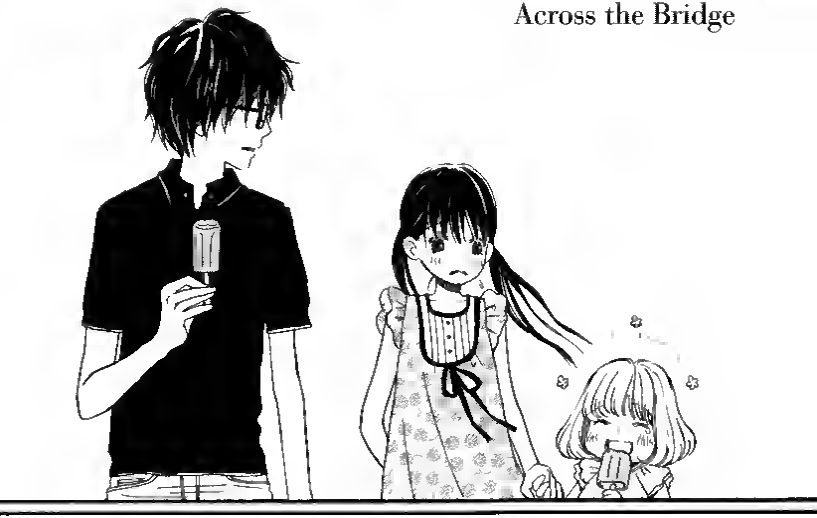
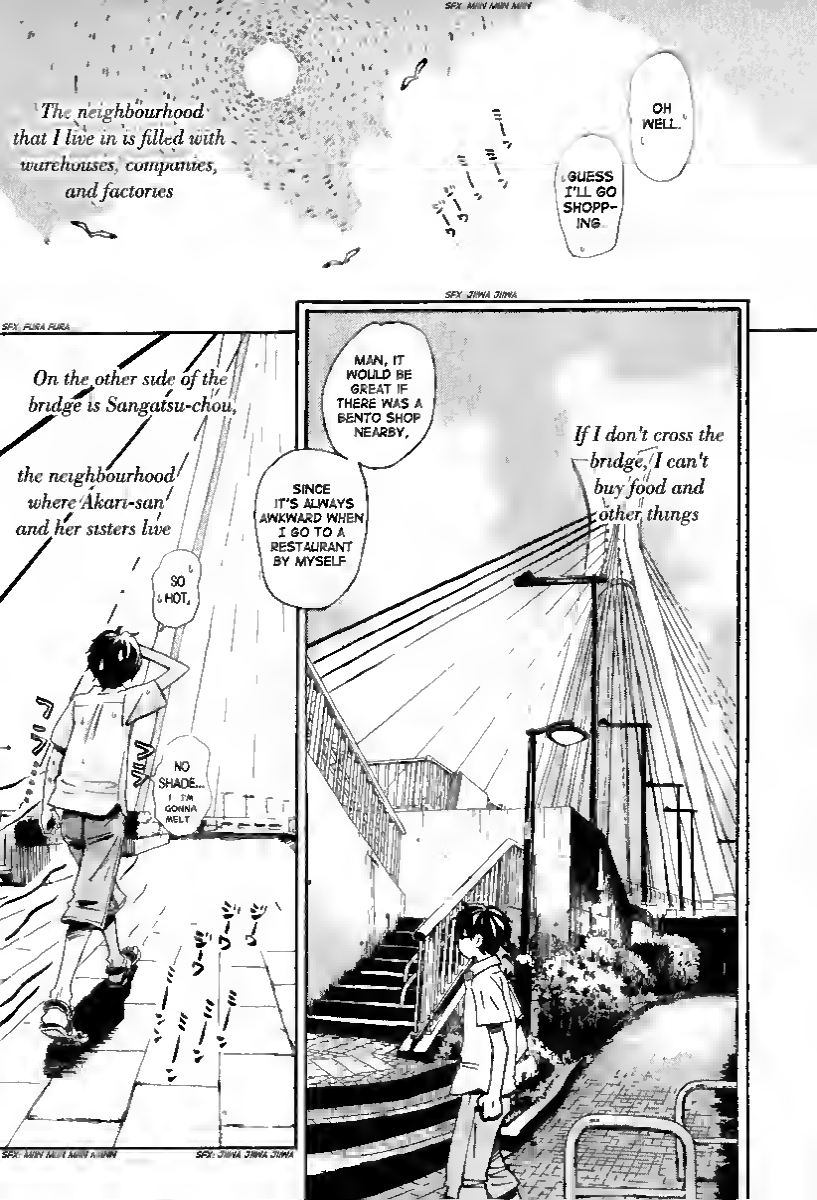
Publisher	Hakusensha
Magazine	Young Animal

3月のライオン

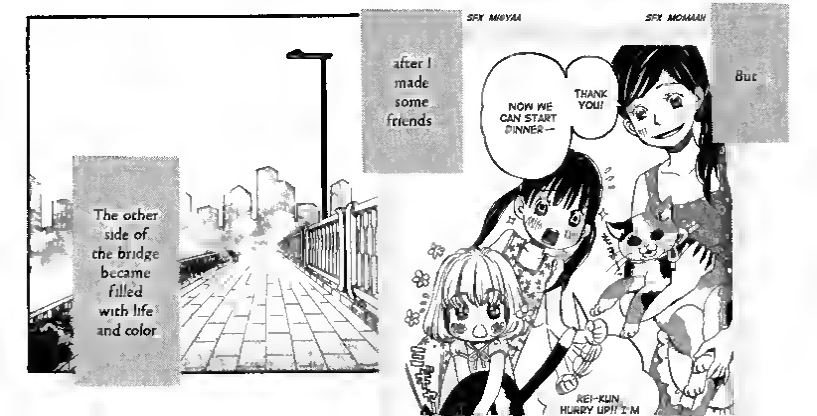
Across the Bridge



SFX: JIJIJA JIJIJA JIJIJA
SFX: BUZU
LABEL: MARGARINE
I'M ALL OUT
EVEN TOILET PAPER
Sigh
BREAD, CUP RAMEN, MILK, WATER...


SFX: MIN MIN MIN
The neighbourhood that I live in is filled with warehouses, companies, and factories
OH WELL.
GUESS I'LL GO SHOPPING.
SFX: JIWA JIWA
SFX: FURA FURA
On the other side of the bridge is Sangatsu-chou,
the neighbourhood where Akari-san and her sisters live
SO HOT.
NO SHADE... I'M GONNA MELT
SFX: MIN MIN MIN MINN
SFX: JIWA JIWA JIWA
MAN, IT WOULD BE GREAT IF THERE WAS A BENTO SHOP NEARBY.
SINCE IT'S ALWAYS AWKWARD WHEN I GO TO A RESTAURANT BY MYSELF
If I don't cross the bridge, I can't buy food and other things

When I first came here, I felt like I was in a dream
Sounds became muted,
and everything seemed to flicker in black and white
Then, after a while, I realized that...
It was just my anxiety, living by myself in this unfamiliar place


The other side of the bridge became filled with life and color
after I made some friends
SFX: MIIYAA
SFX: MOMAAH
But
NOW WE CAN START DINNER—
THANK YOU!
REI-KUN HURRY UP!! I M

I don't even feel hungry anymore
I'm so happy,
With these words alone
I have a place to go now..
It's like...
Even though they told me "Come over any time you like."
can I really?
SOMETHING SMELLS BURNT...
THE SMELL OF SMOKE...
IS IT FIREWORKS?
HM?
WHAT IS IT?

SFX GAAHH
ガーッ
Phew!
It's cool in here
スーパーマーケット
マルエイ
SIGN MARUEI SUPERMARKET
SIGN TOILET PAPER ¥198
SIGN BARGAIN
SIGN OBON SUPPLIES
お盆用品
THAT'S RIGHT
AH,
.....
IT'S OBON
SIGN HEMP STALKS
SFX TSUNN
ぎゅうっ
KYAA
Gotcha, Rei-chan! ☆
EH?!
AH,
MOMO-CHAN?!
SFX GOGOGO

Ah! ☆
It's Rei-kun!
OH MY,
SHOPP-ING?
SFX: GARA GARA GARA
SFX: JIRO JIRO JIRO JIRO
Pff
CUP RAMEN AND SWEET BUNS...
I TOLD YOU, "COME EAT WITH US," BUT YOU NEVER DID.
SIGH
I GET IT
KIRIYAMA-KUN THINKS THAT INSTANT RAMEN IS BETTER THAN WHAT HINATA AND I COOK
YUP,
I THINK ONEI-CHAN IS REALLY HURT
I-IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
AH...
UM...
EH?!
SFX: KUN
EH...
No running away!
SFX: GU
SFX: GYU
SFX: GYU
SFX: GYU
SFX: GYU

AH,
UM, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
I ONLY...
HERE, TAKE THIS.
EH?
THE LIMIT IS THREE PER PERSON,
AND WE CAME TO BUY THIS.
We eat a lot of soumen in the summer ☆
TODAY'S ITEMS
Ibo no Ito (Soumen)
Only ¥198 per box!!!
LABEL: SOUMEN
SFX: TON
SFX: KURU

OH YEAH, WE'RE GOING TO EAT THIS TONIGHT.
REI-KUN, DO YOU LIKE KARAAGE?
¥580
I...
I LIKE IT
THEN,
COME OVER AND EAT WITH US
SFX: PON
LABEL: CHICKEN (PINK MEAT)

OKAY.
THROW UP. YOU'LL FEEL BETTER THAT WAY
I don't know why, but I can never turn down Akari-san...
WHAT
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO THROW
ALL RIGHT
I'M GOING TO STICK MY FINGER IN THERE
PARDON ME...
GOOD.
COUGH
COUGH
HURGH
She had seen my worst from the very beginning,
so I don't need to hide it.
OK, OK,
THAT'S IT, THAT'S IT...
ボゴボゴ

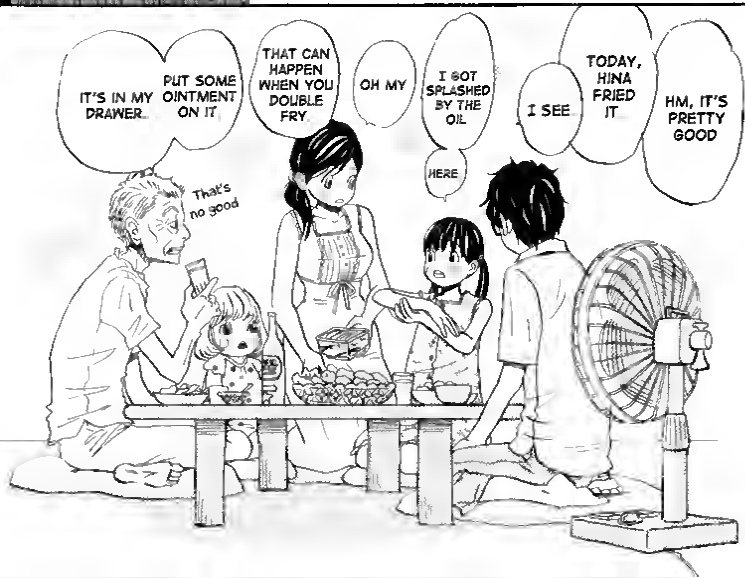
AFTER-NOON, OBA-CHAN, ARE THERE ANY HEMP STALKS LEFT?
OH YES,
ARE YOU GOING NOW? IT'S ALMOST DUSK
Is that... I'll go there later. I don't think so.
LET'S HURRY
IT'S GETTING LATE
OKAY
.....
SFX: SHURO
SFX: PACHI

HINA,
BRING THE PORCELAIN DISH HERE
AND THE MATCHES
OKAY!
SFX: DASH
SFX: JUJI

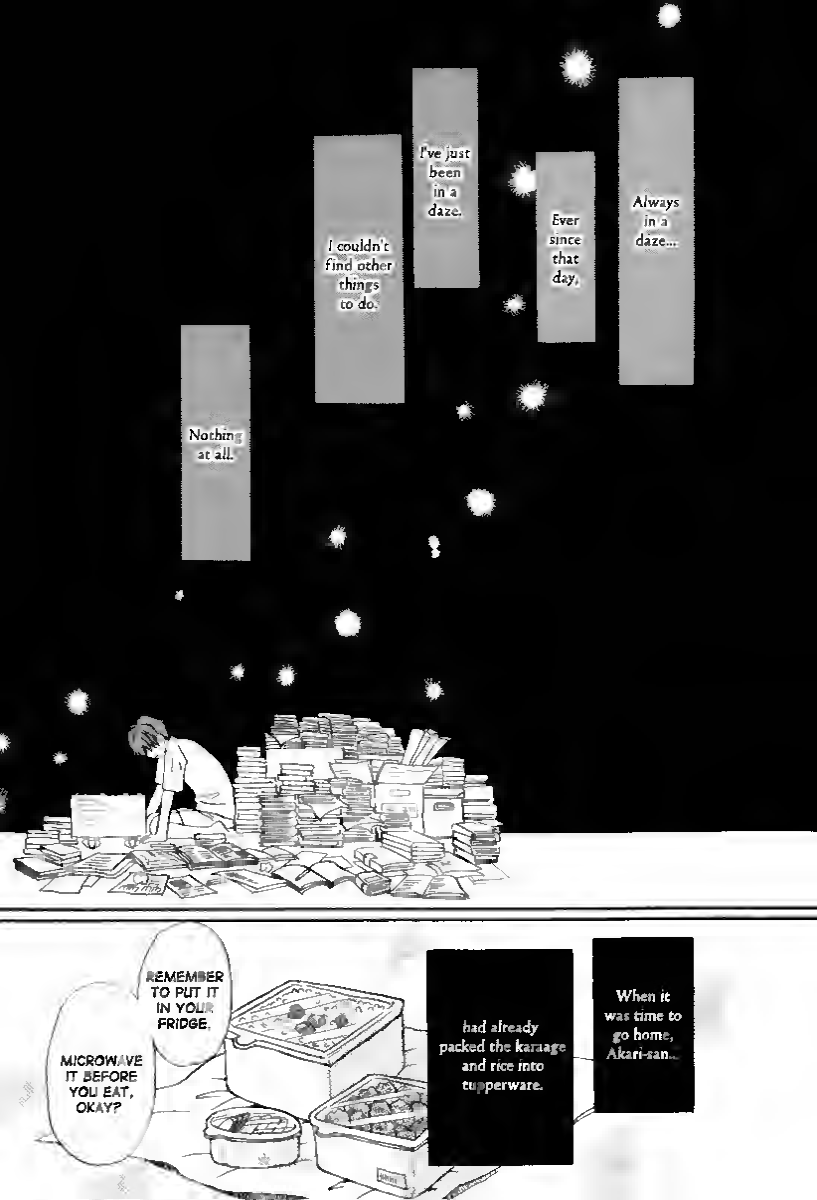
HEY, DON'T TOUCH IT, MOMO
AH, IT'S LIT
This was the smell
Ah, so this was it
Spreading all over the town...
HORSIES?

SFX: JISHUKU
JII-CHAN'S
BAABA AND MAMA TOO
EVERY-ONE
COMES BACK LIKE THIS
IT'S FINE THE WAY IT IS
SFX: GSO GSO GSO GSO
HEY KID, WHERE ARE YOUR PARENTS BURIED?
IS IT YOU ARE YOU THE ONE FEEDING US TODAY!?
FASTER!! ARE RIB A LITTLE MORE
LABEL: CAT GRUNGH
SFX: KOTO
SFX: GNYAAA
I SEE...
YOU DON'T GET IT
THAT'S RIGHT
BAABA AND YOUR MAMA
WILL RETURN RIDING ON THIS
Eh?
THAT'S HOW IT IS ISN'T IT
YOU WON'T GET IT
...BUT,
THAT'S HOW IT GOES.

OK,
DINNER'S READY
OH
LET'S EAT
SFX: BULIN BULIN
I SEE
SO FAR
SFX: KARI KARI KA KARI KARI KARI KARI KARI
IN NAGANO,
MY DAD'S HOMETOWN
ぶーーーん
Hyoiie-
カリカリカリカリカリカリ


IT'S IN MY DRAWER
PUT SOME OINTMENT ON IT
That's no good
THAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN YOU DOUBLE FRY
OH MY
I GOT SPLASHED BY THE OIL
HERE
I SEE
TODAY, HINA FRIED IT
HM, IT'S PRETTY GOOD

not healed, resting within this household.
the wounds are still fresh,
It must be because...
Dinner continues.
There's no talk, no reminiscing.
How long was it until I was calm...?
It's weird.
I can't remember anything.
How long did I weep?
What was it like when it happened to me?


Nothing at all.
I couldn't find other things to do.
I've just been in a daze.
Ever since that day,
Always in a daze...
When it was time to go home, Akari-san...
had already packed the karaage and rice into tupperware.
REMEMBER TO PUT IT IN YOUR FRIDGE.
MICROWAVE IT BEFORE YOU EAT, OKAY?

"It'll be a good distraction."
That's what it sounded like Akari-san had said,
but it was so soft that I couldn't really hear it.
ONCE YOUR MATCH IS OVER ON MONDAY, COME
IF SOMEONE COMES OVER...
IT'LL BE OKURIBON
THERE'LL BE FOOD.
On the way back
the wind was strong on the bridge,
the bento in my arms...
was warm,
as if it were a small living creature...
Chapter 4 end

NOTES from the translators

Page 06

Obon is a Buddhist custom to honour the deceased spirits of one's ancestors

Page 08

Soumen are very thin white Japanese noodles made of wheat flour The noodles are usually served cold and with a lightly flavoured dipping broth or *tsuyu* The noodles are dipped into the sauce not poured over like other foods

Ibo no Ito is a brand of soumen

Karaage is soy flavoured fried chicken You may be able to order it as an appetizer at your local Japanese restaurant

Page 16

Okunbon (Farewell Bon) is the last of the three-day Obon festival

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

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Publisher	Hakusenshu
Magazine	Young Animal

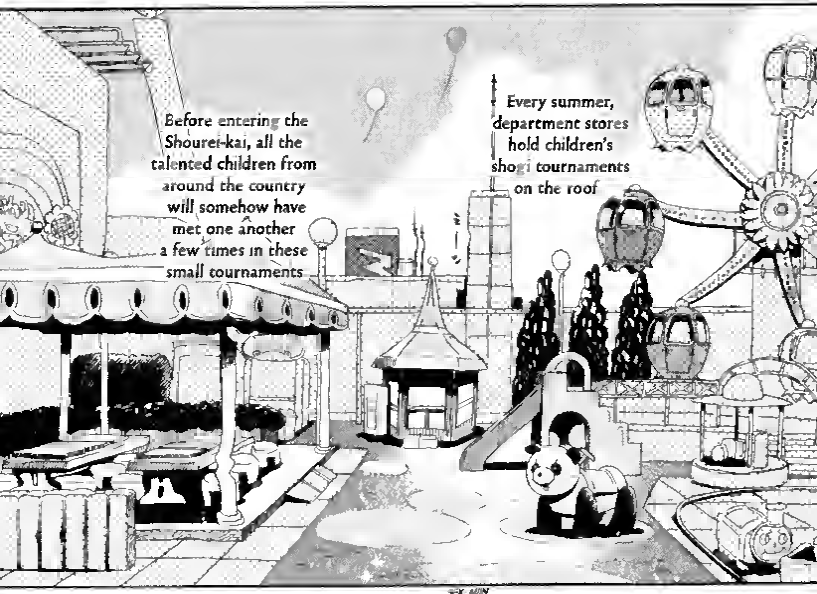
3月のライオン

Chapter 5

Harunobu

SFX: PIPIPI CHUN CHUN
SFX: PI
SFX: PIPIPI
SFX: TAN
SFX: JIII

IT'S ALMOST...
SUMMER...
Today will be my first time playing against him since becoming professionals.
My opponent is Nikaidou Harunobu.
SFX: MIIN MIIN...
SFX: JIIIIII... JIIIIII
SFX: MIIN MIIN...


Before entering the Shourei-kai, all the talented children from around the country will somehow have met one another a few times in these small tournaments
Every summer, department stores hold children's shogi tournaments on the roof
SFX: MIIN

Harunobu and I were regulars at such tournaments.
So, our paths crossed quite often.
I forget how old I was when it happened. On that unnaturally humid and hot summer day...
Harunobu and I met once again at the semi-finals.
It was even worse for him, because he was afraid of the heat.
Just like a demon, his entire body, from top to bottom, went completely red.
It seemed so painful.
I felt awful just looking at him.
SIGN: CHILDREN'S SUMMER HOLIDAY SHOGI TOURNAMENT
SFX: MIN MIN MIN MIN
SFX: MIN MIN
SFX: JIWA JIWA
Furthermore, probably because of his anemia, his face started turning white..
SFX: JIWA JIWA
SFX: JIWA JIWA
SFX: MIN MIN
And in the afternoon, the wind stopped and the temperature kept rising.
...Perhaps it was arrogant for me to think this way...
But at that time, I just wanted to find the quickest route to end the match.
Even if it was only for a moment, I just wanted for the child in front of me to quickly rest in the cool, air-conditioned break room

I don't want to lose.
I don't want to lose.
I don't want to lose.
I don't want to lose.
I don't want to lose
At first, it was just sweat all over that white, pale face. But later, I could hear an inaudible scream coming from him...
As his defeat became imminent, he began to put all his remaining pieces on defense.
...But...
He was starting to resist the idea of death as a relief
I don't want to lose
I don't want to lose
Even though this person in front of me was sweating bullets and was in a dire position, he still persisted in sitting here.
All because he "wanted to win"...
At that moment, I became ashamed of my way of thinking
I don't want to lose.
I don't want to lose
I don't want to lose
I don't want to lose
...There was nothing I could do.
We were so alike in our determination not to lose...
I don't want to lose
I don't want to lose.

Persistently trying to find a nonexistent road to victory
Even though it was definitely my win, he kept trying to fight me off
...It became a very long battle
His king had already fallen into a space that it couldn't back out of
No matter how he tried to resist it...
...But, in the end, he still couldn't escape defeat.
As the cicadas buzzed and the background music of the department store played, all I could do was silently watch
As he mumbled those words, tears the size of pearls began falling from his eyes, just like in manga
"I've lost."
Perhaps... I will never be able to forget that expression for the next ten years

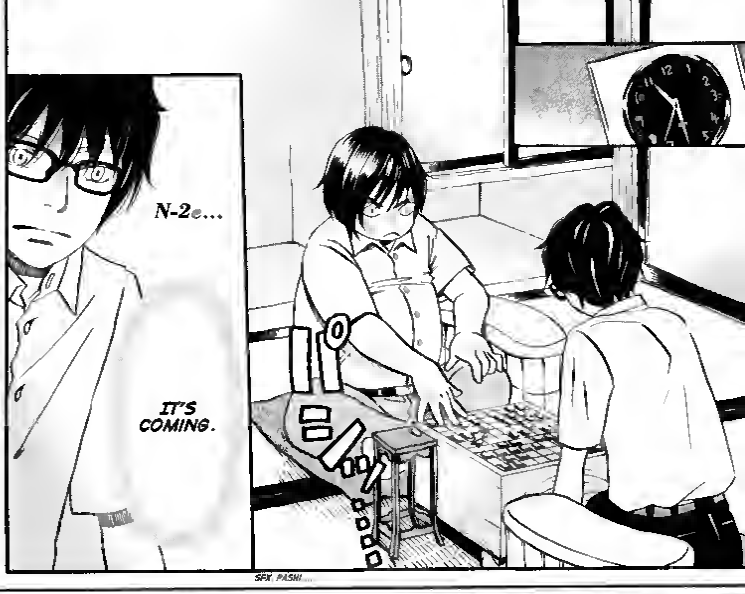
Becoming a professional shogi player is like jumping on a train that's not stopping.
It's impossible to get off.
...Unless you've arrived at the moment where you've lost and can't get back up...
In this tiny shogi world...
the wins and losses repeat endlessly.
They, gasp out, "I don't want to lose..."
将棋会館
OH, KIRIYAMA.
COME SEE!
YOUR OPPONENT IS WAITING FOR YOU WITH THIS AWESOME AURA!
ゴゴゴ…
ゴゴゴ…
?
SFX: SUWA SUWA
SFX: MOJI MOJI

むっちり
平常心是道
どーん

SFX. IKKI IKKI ♥
SFX. GAKKURI...
SFX. HIIRO HERO--
SFX. WAIKI WAIKI
SEE?
FEELS LIKE HE'S REALLY INTO IT.
THIS IS ALMOST TURNING INTO A TOTALLY DIFFERENT KIND OF MANGA, ISN'T IT?
.....
Is that so? So that's how it is... "Next time, be checkmate or not checkmate..." something like that?
I'M SOOO JEALOUS, KIRIYAMA! ☆
LOOK, THAT KIND OF SPIRITED AURA IS ALL THERE BECAUSE OF YOU!
He said that he's your lifelong rival (friend) or something? ☆

SFX: PIN
SFX: SU
YOU'RE LATE, KIRIYAMA
HM?
Quick breaths will cloud the eyes
Calm down. First, slowly take a deep breath
おっちら
*trans.(errand)
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A WHILE.

SFX: MUCCHU
SFX: SUU
ALL RIGHT
THEN LET THE MATCH BEGIN.
IT'S YOU, NIKAIDO-SAN, WHO'S COME EARLY
I CAME HERE AT THE APPOINTED TIME
GEEZ...
YUP.
IS THAT SO ☆
I'VE BEEN REALLY EXCITED!



SFX: PASH!...

SFX: PASH!

SFX: PASH!...

SFX: PASH!

SFX: PACH!...

I have to turn the tide!
パ=ッ
Firm, yet he doesn't hesitate to attack
He's gotten strong..
This can't continue.
If I keep playing defensively,
I won't be able to settle this!
SFX: PASH!
Sweat
パタ..
SFX: PATA
ジーワ ジーワ
ミーン ミーン
ミーン ミーン
NIIN NIIN NIIN
MIIN MIIN MIIN
MIIN MIIN MIIN

Nikaidou's expression is a bit strange!
EXCUSE ME, IS THE AC ON?
His face is starting to turn pale...
It was like this back then...
I'M SORRY...
THE AC ISN'T FUNCTIONING VERY WELL...

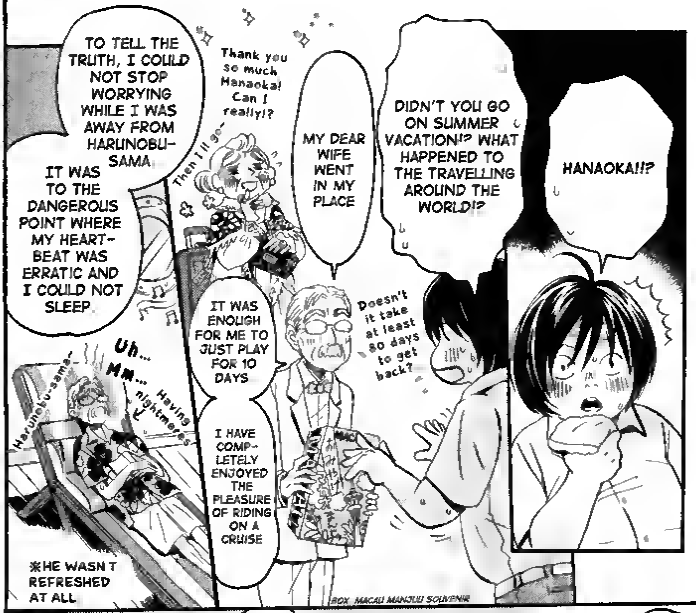
LABEL WATER

LET'S CONTINUE
COMPARED TO THE ROOF OF THAT DEPARTMENT STORE, THIS IS HEAVEN
IT'S OKAY, KIRIYAMA

SFX: PASHI
SFX: PASHI
SFX: PASHI
Huh!?
S-6h!?
P-7f.
Then I'll do this.
L-5g... My opponent's already at the point where he has no more pawns to use.
SFX: JIRIRA JIRIRA... MIRIN
SFX: MIRIN
SFX: NI
Why!?
Why would he do that!?
He's abandoned his gold general and moved his silver general!?
I really don't want to lose.
I don't want to lose.
...Yeah.

Calm down and continue forward!
The match continued deep into the night.
And I kept escaping the trap Harunobu was setting.
As long as I calmly make my moves, I'll still have the advantage in this match
Take a deep breath.
Expand your vision.
Calm down.
SFX: SUU.....
SFX: DO DO DO DO
...I HAVE NOTHING.
I'VE LOST
...Ah, this is it.
This expression...
After-wards...

Some things haven't changed...
Nikaidou hasn't
...And I definitely haven't...
He's still the same
as when we were children.
Definitely, just like this.
Always...
Forever,
and ever.
HARU-NOBU-SAMA.
将棋会館
将棋会館


TO TELL THE TRUTH, I COULD NOT STOP WORRYING WHILE I WAS AWAY FROM HARUNOBU-SAMA
IT WAS TO THE DANGEROUS POINT WHERE MY HEART-BEAT WAS ERRATIC AND I COULD NOT SLEEP
Thank you so much Hanaoka! Can I really!?
Then I'll go—
MY DEAR WIFE WENT IN MY PLACE
DIDN'T YOU GO ON SUMMER VACATION!? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TRAVELLING AROUND THE WORLD!?
HANAOKA!!?
Doesn't it take at least 80 days to get back?
IT WAS ENOUGH FOR ME TO JUST PLAY FOR 10 DAYS
I HAVE COMP-LETELY ENJOYED THE PLEASURE OF RIDING ON A CRUISE
Uh... Mm... Having nightmares
Harunobu-sama...
*HE WASN'T REFRESHED AT ALL
BOX. MACAU MANJUU SOUVENIR

YOU NEED NOT APOLOGIZE. I UNDER-STAND
I'm sorry, Hanaoka
DID YOU EAT YOUR MEALS PROPERLY?
ALLOW ME TO GO ABOVE MY POSITION AND ASK A QUESTION THESE PAST FEW DAYS THAT I WAS NOT HERE
I'm sorry.
HARU-NOBU-SAMA, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
IS YOUR KIDNEY WORKING HARD?
ALWAYS EATING THE MEALS FROM HOSPITALS WOULD CAUSE ANYONE TO LOSE THEIR APPETITE
EVER SINCE YOU WERE LITTLE... I'VE ALWAYS WATCHED HOW MUCH PAIN YOU'RE IN
OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO MORIKAWA-SAN'S PLACE FIRST?
DO YOU NEED TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL?
I HAVE ALREADY CONTACTED HIM.

HE'S TOO STRONG.
I LOST.
I'VE BECOME SO MUCH BETTER, BUT...
HOW DID KIRIYAMA-SAN'S MATCH TURN OUT?
PLEASE TAKE IT SLOW AND TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY FIRST.
IT'S OKAY. I WILL ALWAYS BE BY YOUR SIDE.
I WILL DEFINITELY NOT LOSE NEXT TIME.
BUT...
HARUNOBU-SAMA.
THAT'S FOR CERTAIN.
INDEED.
Chapter 5 end

NOTES from the translators

Page 08

The text "**Next time, to checkmate or not checkmate ..**" is translated from 詰むや詰まざるや (tsumu ya tsumazaru ya) which seems to be a reference to the alternative title of Ito Sokan the Third's classical shogi book *Shoogi Musoo* (Unparallieled Shogi Problems) first published in 1735. It is not likely to be a reference to Hamlet.

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

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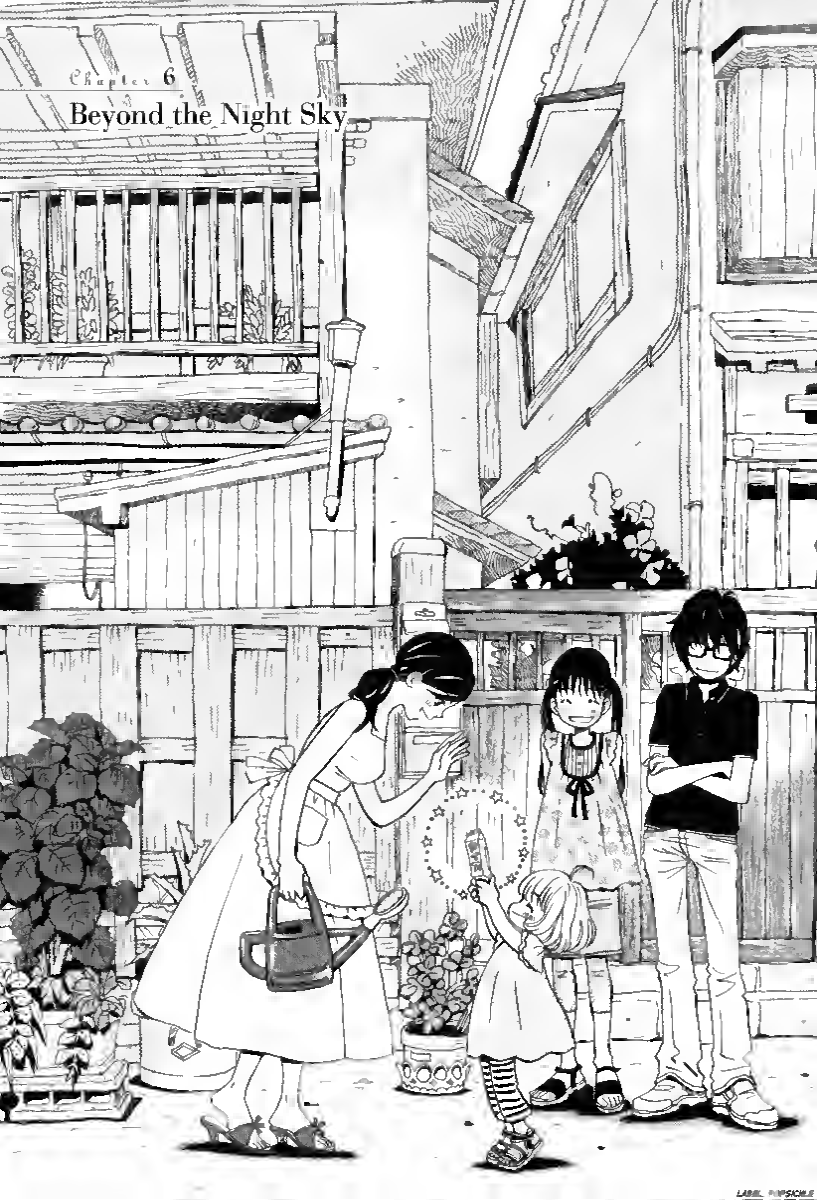
Typesetting	Charu
Proofreader	Lennera
QC	Charu, Maris
Publisher	Hakusensha
Magazine	Young Animal

3月のライオン

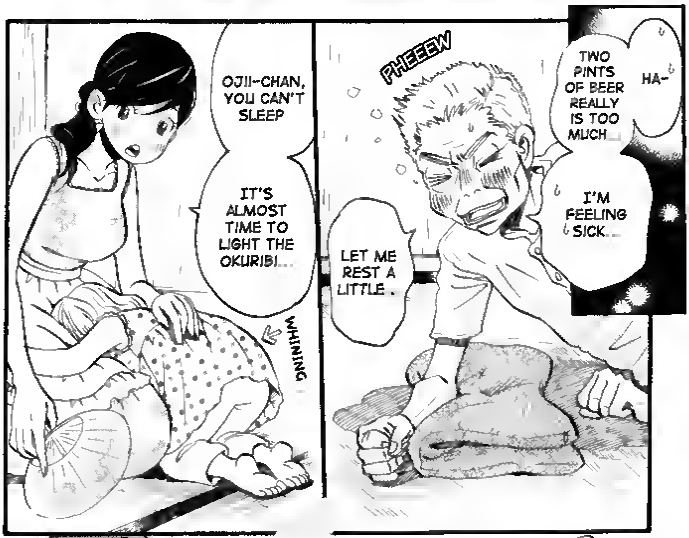
Chapter 6

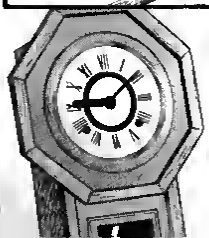
Beyond the Night Sky



Once the match against Nikaidou ended,
I returned to the home where everyone was waiting, as promised.
Once your match is over, come
It'll be Okuribon. We'll make food.
GOOD EVENING
IT'S KIRIYAMA
Ah, Momo look. Rei-chan is here!
This is Pudding
SORRY I'M LATE
THAT TOOK A WHILE GOOD WORK!
YOU MUST BE HUNGRY, COME IN
WHINING...
It looks great, but... is it possible to finish it all...?
THANK YOU!
Kiriyama-kun doesn't have a big appetite, so we prepared small portions~★
OKAY, PLEASE SIT DOWN. SINCE KIRIYAMA-KUN WAS LATE, I SET YOUR PLATES SEPERATELY ★
Chirashi Sushi
Gratin
Miso Soup
Sashimi
Natto
Croquette
Spring Rolls
Salad
THE FAMOUS(?) FOODS OF SHITAMACHI MIX-AND-MATCH FOOD TRIATHLON...

AH... IT'S SO SMALL...
PRECISE AND DETAILED...
SERVED USING MOMO'S HOUSE SET
AND THIS IS FOR OBAA-CHAN AND OKAA-SAN...
JUST ONE BITE, ONE BITE, ONE BITE, AT LEAST ONE BITE, ONE BITE...
AHHH WHAT IS THAT, HOW! WANT IT, WANT IT, WANT IT...
WANT IT WANT IT, WANT IT.
SFX: GUGA GUGA GUGA


OJII-CHAN, YOU CAN'T SLEEP
IT'S ALMOST TIME TO LIGHT THE OKURIBI...
WHINING
PHEEEW
HA-
TWO PINTS OF BEER REALLY IS TOO MUCH...
I'M FEELING SICK...
LET ME REST A LITTLE.


I TOLD YOU
IF YOU'RE TOO LATE, IT'LL BE DIFFICULT FOR OBAA-CHAN AND EVERYONE TO RETURN HOME...
YEAH...
AH, IT'S ALREADY NINE O'CLOCK...

BEFORE, IT WAS LIT DURING THE EVENING...
...WHEN IT WAS STARTING, THE FIRE...
YES, THAT WAS MUKAEBON
SEEMED TO BE SAYING "HURRY HOME, EVERYONE'S WAITING FOR YOU" AS THE SUN WAS SETTING.
AND,
WHEN IT'S OKURIBON, YOU LIGHT THE OKURIBI.
THIS REPRESENTS "I HOPE THAT THEY CAN STAY FOR A LITTLE LONGER"
THAT'S WHY,
WHEN THEY ARRIVE, YOU WANT THEM TO COME EARLIER SO YOU SHAPE A CUCUMBER INTO A HORSE TO SPEED UP THEIR JOURNEY
AND WHEN THEY'RE DEPARTING,
THEY WILL BE LEAVING WITH ALL OF THE GIFTS YOU'VE GIVEN THEM.
THAT'S WHY YOU SHAPE AN EGGPLANT INTO AN OX, SO THEY CARRY IT ALL SAFELY...

But somewhere within their hearts

there must be a languid

sadness...

For me . is on everyone's minds while the coming and going of those who are no longer here... and a plentiful dinner... In this way, they prepare the horses and oxen,

it brings back unwanted memories.
This seems like nothing but a painful ceremony that brings about sadness.
WELL...
IT'S TIME WE WENT HOME.
MOMO, READY TO TAKE YOUR BATH AND SLEEP?
I'LL BE BACK.
I'M JUST GOING TO RUN TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE...
UM, MANGA!
I FORGOT THAT HANA TO YUME IS OUT.
NOW HINA?
WHAT ARE YOU BUYING?
COME ON, JUST GO.
EH...
AH, OKAY.
GO WITH HER, BOY.

SHE'S FAST...
.....
WHERE IS SHE GOING?
THERE ARE NO CONVE-NIENCE STORES AROUND THERE...

HINA...
THERE SHE IS...

HINA...
...

O...
kaa-san
...
Okaa-
...
san...
It must be because, when she's in front of everyone,
she's been holding back all the pain inside.
A voice that couldn't reach out.
A voice that seems to be choking up.
Okaa
san
sob
aaan
hic
Okaa-sa...

……
SFX TON
トン
KIRI-
YAMA
KUN

doubts that I had shut away began to well up in my heart.
IT'S OKAY.
As I listened to her sobs,
IT'S OKAY...
sb...
hic
nn
sob
S...
SOR...
RY...
I'll...
I'll...
GO...
BACK SOON...
Hina, who was crying...
Flowing out like ink...
LET'S STAY HERE FOR A LITTLE BIT LONGER...
had long since pushed away...
hic
sob...
hic
sob...
hic
and I, who couldn't cry...

Side by side, we looked up at the beautiful—

just, simply beautiful—

July night sky...

Chapter 6 end

NOTES from the translators

Page 02

Shitamachi is the traditional name for the area of Tokyo going from Taito-ku to Chiyoda-ku and Chuo-ku, the physically low part of the city next to, and particularly east of, the Sumida river.

Mix-and-match food is translated from 食べ合わせ (tabeawase) which appears to refer to the combinations of foods that you eat. For example, if you eat A with B, that could increase the effects of the nutrients, but if you eat A with C, C could cancel out the effects of A's vitamins.

Page 03-04

Okunbi is a small fire lit at the entrance of homes to send off one's ancestor's spirits on *Okunbon* (see notes for vol. 1, ch. 4).

Mukaebon is the first of the three Obon festival days, the fire lit on this day is called *mukaebi*.

Page 06

Hana to Yume is a semi-monthly shoujo manga magazine published by Hakusensha. Popular titles that have ran in Hana to Yume include *Fruits Basket*, *Gakuen Alice*, *Hanazakari no Kimitachi e*, or *Fairy Cube*.

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

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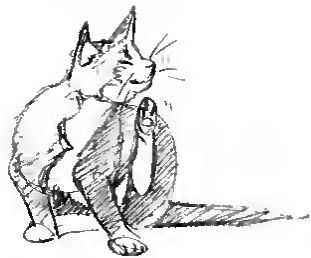
Proofreader	Lemera
QC	Maria, Foxfire
Publisher	Hakusensha
Magazine	Young Animal

3月のライオン

Chapter 7

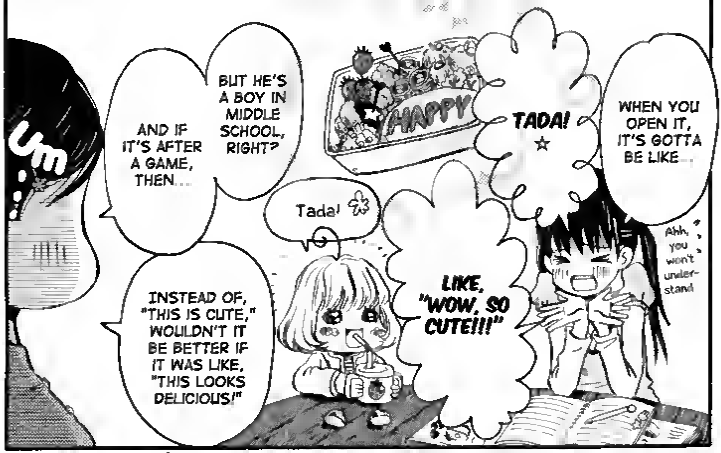
Hina



3月のライオン

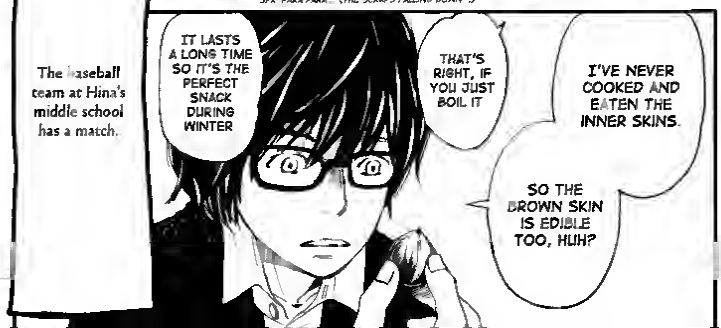
Makoto Isaka
Chika Umino

Hina-chan has been very distressed.
SFX: PEKI PEKI (SCHWIP SCHWIP)
SO,
WOULD FRIED CHICKEN AND EGGS BE OKAY?
AND LET'S ADD SOME CHOPPED SALTED VEGGIES, SO IT WON'T BE TOO SWEET
AH—
HMM
SFX: PATA PATA (SLAP SLAP)
IT HAS TO BE CUTER!!
NO! IT CAN'T BE BROWN!
wah
SFX: PATA PATA (SLAP SLAP)


UM...
AND IF IT'S AFTER A GAME, THEN...
BUT HE'S A BOY IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, RIGHT?
INSTEAD OF, "THIS IS CUTE," WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF IT WAS LIKE, "THIS LOOKS DELICIOUS!"
Tada!
HAPPY
TADA! ☆
WHEN YOU OPEN IT, IT'S GOTTA BE LIKE...
LIKE, "WOW, SO CUTE!!!"
Ahh, you won't understand

SFX: PAKI PAKI PAKI (SCHNIP SCHNIP SCHNIP)

SFX: PARA PARA... (THE SCRAPS FALLING DOWN)


The baseball team at Hina's middle school has a match.
IT LASTS A LONG TIME SO IT'S THE PERFECT SNACK DURING WINTER
THAT'S RIGHT, IF YOU JUST BOIL IT
I'VE NEVER COOKED AND EATEN THE INNER SKINS.
SO THE BROWN SKIN IS EDIBLE TOO, HUH?

NOW HE'S THE ACE AND IDOL OF THE BASEBALL TEAM AT HINA'S SCHOOL
TAKAHASHI
4
And it seems that, at that match,
the person who Hina has taken a liking to will be playing
THOUGH HE USED TO BE TINY...
HE'S THE MILK-MAN'S SON
HIS NAME IS TAKA-HASHI...
I GUESS HE MUST'VE DRUNK UP EVERY LAST DROP OF MILK AT HIS OWN PLACE
BOTTLE COW MILK
JERSEY SANRATSU-CHOU
Little League
SFX: "KAAAA (BLUSHING)"
SFX: NARU NARU (GULP GULP)
And it looks like she wants to present a homemade bento
COMPETI-TION'S GOTTEN FIERCE...
BUT HINA HAS HAD A CRUSH ON TAKAHASHI-KUN EVER SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
to this person she's "taken a liking to,"
(which, no matter how you look at it, has to be Takahashi-kun)
That's not it at all!
カカー
That's not it!
T...
peeling chestnut skins to be cooked
Okay, okay I'm sorry
Why do you always have to go and say stuff like that!
Onii-chan is such a dummy-!
Loves to do detailed work.
–So that's why I'm sitting here now, the night before this monumental event in this young lady's life,
SFX: FUMU FUMU OHAN HAKO
SFX: PAKI PAKI (SCHNIP SCHNIP)

WHAT IF I DO THIS?
Hm...
WHAT?
LET ME SEE

HMM, I SEE...
I THINK IT'S TOO RISKY IF IT'S SOMETHING YOU'RE MAKING FOR THE FIRST TIME
I MEAN, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT'LL TAKE WHICH MEANS YOU'LL RUSH
AND IF YOU RUSH, YOU'LL MAKE MISTAKES, RIGHT? LIKE THE SEASONING, OR...
Th- Then,
What should I do!?
THE GAME STARTS AT 10, RIGHT? IF YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE AT 9:30...
Hmmm...
Boil the squash mash it and make it into balls. Cover it in flour, then dip it in egg yolk and then cover it with bread crumbs...
SQUASH CROQUETTES THAT LOOK LIKE APPLES
AND A FIELD OF FLOWERS MADE FROM ONIGIRI

SFX: KUN-KUN
O-
Old lady!?
That's something old lady would make! No way--!!
I DON'T WANT TO DO THAT! THAT'S SO PLAIN!
EH!?
AND IF YOU WANT SOMETHING RED, ADD CHERRY TOMATOES OR...
WHY NOT JUST MAKE FRIED CHICKEN AND EGGS.
Is there anything I can eat here? Nya~
SFX: KIRA KIRA (GLITTER GLITTER)

SFX: DOKI DOKI ... (BADUM BADUM ...)
SFX: PUI (TURN AWAY)
SFX: HARA HARA (SWEAT SWEAT)
SFX: TSUUUN (POUT)
SFX: GONG GONG
SFX: OZU OZU (TIMIDLY)
SFX: PUN
SFX: PUN
SFX: BO
SFX: BO
SFX: BO
SFX: KYA
SFX: UUU...
SFX: PURR
SFX: PURR
SFX: WROOM
SFX: PURR
Um...
Onee-chan
Could you...
I want to buy these, but I don't have any money
Ah.
Empty
Money
OH NO!
IT'S SO LATE ALREADY...
AND MARUE! CLOSES AT 10...
I'm not going to help you out anymore
FINE, FINE! DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!
I'm going to make this!
That's it!
Is this a bento from some fancy restaurant!?
Just looking at it, it's got to be more than ¥2000.
Hey! What the heck are you making!?
I mean, how many things are you planning to buy?!
This is so extravagant...
avocado, asparagus, baby corn, balsamic vinegar, lemons, mushrooms, paprika (red) (yellow) rosemary, oyster mushrooms, fresh basil, decorative cups, toothpicks, and...
Acorn squash, minced beef, bread crumbs, onions, eggs, black pepper, radishes, olives.
WHAT IS THIS...
Pet me more, more purr vroom purr

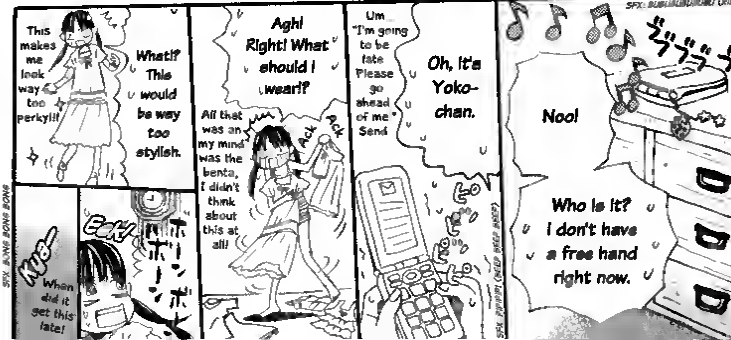
SFX: BISHI (CHOP)
What is this!!! Onei-chan you dummy, you spend ALL your money on other people's kids!!!
Aren't the meowies and Kiriyama-kun the same?
Someone else's kid!?
What?!
When the ¥158 milk I buy is already the cheapest one out there!!!
Why do we have to spend ¥3000 of our food money on a bento for someone else's kid!?
I don't wanna~
Someone else's kids
SFX: MOCCHIIII (SELF SATISFIED)
SFX: TUYA TUYA (SKINNED)
SFX: WISHI (CLUTCH)
AH
UM,
WELL,
SORRY...
Ahh... awkward
You're not Momo's big brother?
Where did you come from?
REI-CHAN IS SOMEONE ELSE'S KID?
I'VE SAID I WOULD PAY FOR MY FOOD EXPENSES BEFORE, BUT,
AKARI-SAN JUST WOULDN'T ACCEPT IT...
AH, NO,
ME TOO
I'M SORRY
UM...
ABOUT THAT

BUT, WITH THIS, SHE JUST MIGHT BE WILLING TO ACCEPT IT
AND THEN I WON'T FEEL SO IN-DEBTED
CHU
.....
YOU KNOW, MY SISTER
SHE BRINGS HOME WHATEVER SHE SEES.
SPARROWS AND CATS
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT WHENEVER SHE SEES SOMETHING PITIFUL,
SHE JUST CAN'T LEAVE IT ALONE
Chirp Chirp
Wan Wan
Nya Nya
AND
SHE LIKES TO NURSE THEM BACK TO HEALTH SO THEY'RE NICE AND FAT
Mmm
BAG MARUEI
BUT,
I WAS REALLY SURPRISED WHEN SHE BROUGHT A PERSON BACK HOME
BUT,
IT'LL BE ALRIGHT,
I'M SURE THAT MY SISTER WILL BE ABLE TO
NURSE YOU BACK TO HEALTH SOON SO YOU'RE NICE AND FAT TOO
YUP
IS THAT SO...
MO?

SFX: BASHAHN (CLAANG)
I SEE
UH HUH!
THAT'S RIGHT!

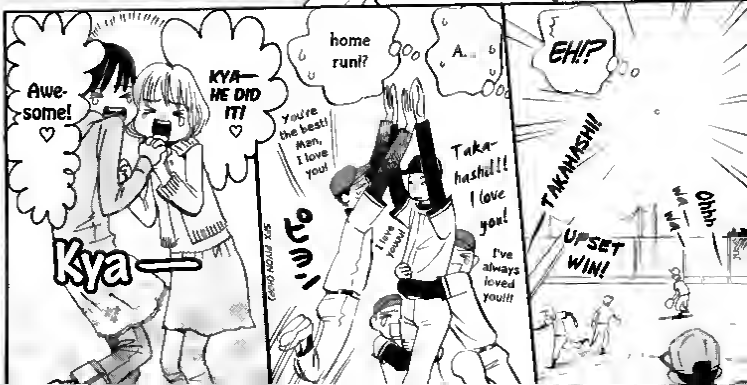
And so came Sunday morning...
Kya——!

SFX: BUNO BUNO BUNO
SFX: BOH BOH BOH
I woke up at 6!
Why!?
No way! It's already 8!?
SFX: SHUUU (TWEET)
Ahhh, something smells burnt!
Is that the apple sauce!?
Kya—!
SFX: SHUUU (TWEET)
Do I have to start over!?
The croquettes that I spent so much time making into balls—
GYAA
SFX: FUN FUN HUMPH (SNORT)


SFX: BUNO BUNO BUNO
When did it get this late!
Kya
Eek!
SFX: BOH BOH BOH
This makes me look way too perky!!
What!? This would be way too stylish.
Agh! Right! What should I wear!?
All that was on my mind was the benta, I didn't think about this at all!
Act
Um "I'm going to be late Please go ahead of me." Send
Oh, it's Yoko-chan.
SFX: GUGUGUGUGUGU (RUMBLE)
Noo!
Who is it? I don't have a free hand right now.
SFX: GUGU GUGU (RUMBLE)

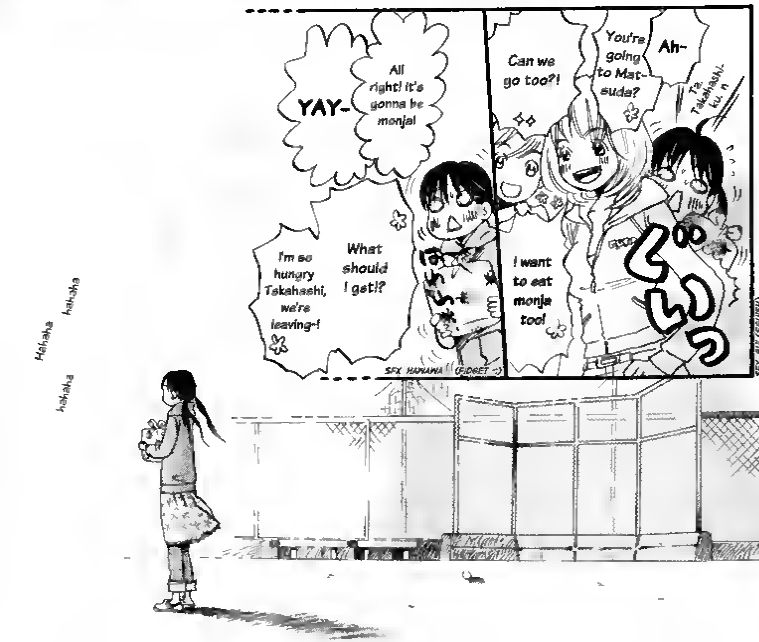
NO
ボーン
ボーン
10 AM
PHEW
THESE CURTAINS WERE UNEXPECTEDLY EXPENSIVE
BUT WITH THESE I CAN FINALLY SLEEP IN PEACE
カーテン+カーペット
下見
WA—
WA—
I DON'T HAVE ANY MATCHES FOR A WHILE, SO IT'S A NICE OPPORTUNITY
HM?
IF I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO TAKE CARE OF AT HOME THEN
kya—
kya—
And some chairs, and a desk bookshelves
Ah this is
1, 1
2, 2
HINA-CHAN'S MIDDLE SCHOOL
We
We

Do your best—!!
Oh..
There she is
Hiii!!~
I wonder if she finished the bento in time...
Ah.. So this is the Takahashi-kun that everyone was talking about.
And he certainly does look pretty cool...
He's huge. Is he really a middle school student?
Takahashi
Takahashi-kun
Kya~
Kya~
KYA! TAKA-HASHI-KUN!


Awe-some!
KYA— HE DID IT!
Kya—
home run!?
A...
You're the best! Man, I love you!
I love you!!
Taka-hashi!!! I love you!
I've always loved you!!!
SFX: KA-NN
EH!?
TAKAHASHI!
Ohhh
WA WA
UPSET WIN!

Ah
I've never seen Hina-chan with that expression on her face before.
It's the face of the spring-time of youth,
It's bitter-sweet.
She's, like, completely in love!
Wh-Whoa
Am-Amazing
Man, he's totally like the main character out of some shounen manga
He really hit it out there.
Love.
...

AH,
YEAH
TAKAHASHI, YOU'RE COMIN' TOO, RIGHT? TO MATSUDA?
Kya
You were so cool.
Good work!
Kya
Kya
UH
UHM
TAKA-HASHI-KUN...?
ORO
ORO
SO,
AFTER WE CHANGE, LET'S MEET UP AT MATSUDA
Kya
Kya
EH!? MAT-SUDA?
FOR MONJA? I M STARVIN'-
Thank you!
SFX ZAWA ZAWA (BUZZ BUZZ)


YAY-
All right! It's gonna be monja!
I'm so hungry Takahashi, we're leaving-!
What should I get!?
SFX HAHAHA (GIDGET =)
Can we go too?!
You're going to Mat-suda?
Ah~
I'm Takahashi-kun.
Hii
I want to eat monja too!
SFX KUNKUN
Hohoho
hoh..ho
hohoho

DON'T DO THAT.
SFX: GUI (GRAB)
BUT, ONEI-CHAN IS GONNA ASK...
What...
cause
Why are you crying?
BIG SIS' WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND
SNIFF
SNIFF
Last night and
just a moment ago
you looked
so happy...
SHE'LL SAY,
"WHY DIDN'T YOU GIVE IT TO HIM...? YOU PUT ALL THAT EFFORT INTO MAKING IT!"
ONEI-CHAN IS SO PRETTY... AND SHE'S GOOD AT COOKING
IF IT WAS A BENTO THAT ONEI-CHAN MADE,
ANY-ONE WOULD BE GLAD TO...

I just
don't understand women
UWA-N
OKAY,
LET'S GO HOME
WHEN WE GET BACK WE CAN ALL EAT TOGETHER
WE'RE BACK
AH
SO YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO GIVE IT TO HIM
THAT'S SUCH A SHAME
YOU TRIED SO HARD
Fu
U
Wah
AH THERE THERE
DON'T CRY
I UNDER-STAND
I UNDER-STAND
IT'S HAPPENED TO ME BEFORE, TOO

I WANTED TO MAKE A REALLY CUTE ONE,
I TRIED HARD,
AND I RUSHED,
AND I WAS SO HAPPY
AND I FAILED...
THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T HELP IT AND SAID THAT...
:3 O
THERE WERE TIMES WHERE YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO GIVE IT TO SOMEONE TOO?
THAT'S RIGHT, THERE WERE
JUST LIKE YOU, HINA
BUT, YOU KNOW,
I REMEMBERED...
THE THINGS I SAID TO HINA LAST NIGHT,
A LONG TIME AGO, MOM SAID THE EXACT SAME THINGS TO ME
OKAY THEN.
HOW ABOUT WE EAT TOGETHER?
Okay!
MOM ?
IT'S FUNNY, ISN'T IT?
AHH, LIKE MOTHER LIKE DAUGHTER, I GUESS...

HUH?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FURBALLS?
ALL RIGHT,
THE TEA IS DONE, SO LET'S EAT...
THEY'RE SO FULL
THAT THEY FELL ASLEEP?
SFX: HAGU HAGU (MUNCH MUNCH)
EH? Really? Is it really okay!?
SFX: KA KA (SNUV SNUV)
HM? WHAT? YOU WANT SOME?
I GUESS YOU CAN HAVE SOME TODAY...
HOW IS IT, KIRI-YAMA-KUN?
.....
Ugh
HINA, DID YOU... EVEN TASTE THIS?
C-guh
It was...
bitter, sweet, and sour...
Huh? Nope!
it truly tasted like a conclusion to a first love
that's what Kiriyama-kun and Oner-chan thought
At least...
Okay
I'm gonna do my best next time too!
that she wasn't able to give out her first bento
It might have been for the best
Hina...
Let's do some special training together...
...that's right... Onii-chan always did all the seasoning for you
Chapter 7 end

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

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Publisher	Hakusensha
Magazine	Young Animal

3月のライオン

Chapter 8

Comparison

I SEE IT.
WHAT?
UM...
I WON, RIGHT?
YES?
OH...
WHATEVER EVEN IF IT'S JUST BY APPEARANCE, IT'S STILL A VICTORY.
APPEAR-ANCE... IT SHOULD BE "REALITY."
Uh...
SEX JIAN (SLATTER)

SFX: FUU... (SIGH...)
AH... YES, YES I KNOW YOU "WON," ALRIGHT?
ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?
OKAY, LET'S GO AGAIN.
W-Wait! What's that supposed to mean!?
Are you trying to say, "Oh, Whatever, okay?"
THAT WAY, I'LL BEGIN WITH A STATIC ROOK AND YOU CAN USE THE BISHOP EXCHANGE AGAIN
THIS TIME I'LL START
EHH!?
Also, what do you mean by this!? Am I only a practice partner?!
Small!! You're small, Kiriyama!!
You do things too swiftly! Using the bishop exchange and stuff like that, I won't be able to have things go my way!!
THEN CAN'T YOU JUST USE THE RANGING ROOK TECHNIQUE?
Ehh...
I'm part of the static rook group!!!
SFX: BARA (RATTLE)
Why must you keep using techniques that I'm not good against!?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH. I'VE ALREADY SAID THAT STUDYING BY MYSELF IS MORE SUITED FOR MY PERSONALITY.
Do you know how great of a loss it is to your shogi life to lose an important partner who can help raise your playing abilities!!?
You do know, don't you, Kiriyama!!?
SFX: HAAAA (SIIIGH)

WE'LL CALL IT THE NIKAIDOU VACCINE.
TO BE PRECISE, IT'S YOU WHO NEEDS TO FIND A METHOD!
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO FIND A METHOD WITH OUR COMBINED EFFORTS
WE NEED TO WORK EFFI-CIENTLY
YES!
THE WONDER DRUG KNOWN AS "THE BISHOP EXCHANGE COUNTER-ATTACK..."
SFX: NI (SMILE)
SFX: KII KII (SCREECH SCREECH)
SFX: BUU WUU (TWET TWET)
SFX: WAA HAA (WAH WAH)
SFX: GABOON (GAHH)
But it's not the same!!
Shouldn't it be the "Kiryama Vaccine" then?
Do you really not under-stand this!?
If you put your name in it, then you'll be known even in later generations!!
Something like "Nikaidou Vaccine" or "Nikaidou Immune System!"
I get that a lot.
I SET IT...
BUT I WISH I DIDN'T!!
On days without matches, what do professional shogi players do?

...Yes.
The answer is "training."
It's true that "matches" only occur a few times a month.
But they are the same as the "matches" that they have in baseball or boxing.
So what do these "athletes" do on days where there are no matches...?
There are only a few matches each month, right?
You'll be fine just working a few days a month. What an easy life
...I've gotten that too.
Shogi players are the same as athletes. On days with no games, they have to "train (study)"
studying and walking through the millions of kifu left by players before us,
JUST LET ME BE...
I'VE ALREADY SAID THAT I'M THE TYPE WHO DOES BETTER WHEN I STUDY ALONE...
Holding study sessions with fellow shogi players,
and discussing new methods...
Weary

SFX: GUGORUGYURUUUMUUU (GRRRRRUMMMBLE...)
SFX: WUUU (WE'WWW)
You...
want to...
eat?
Defeated
...HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING!?
I'M TALKING TO YOU!
YOU CAME AT 9AM WITHOUT ANY INVITATION AT ALL, SAYING, "LET'S DEVELOP A WONDER DRUG!!" OR SOMETHING...
AND I'M AN ALL-ROUNDER, EVEN THOUGH THAT DOESN'T REALLY HAVE TO DO WITH ANY-THING...
G.MORNING!!
Also brought bento boxes over (He's awfully healthy.)
EHH...
SFX: BAKARI (DISAPPOINTED)
LABEL: BENTO

SFX: DARA DARA (DRIP DRIP)
KIRIYAMA, WHAT DO YOU NORMALLY EAT?
I GUESS IT'S BREAD, NIKO NIKO BENTO, MECS, OR YOSHIDAYA'S BEEF BOWLS
ME? WHEN I'M ALONE
No, too plain!!
Giga Mec...?
OH YEAH, HOW ABOUT MECDNALD? NIKAIDOU SHOULD LIKE THE GIGA MEC, RIGHT?
SOME-THING FAST AND EASY
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT?
Mecdnald
Mecdnold
メクドナルド

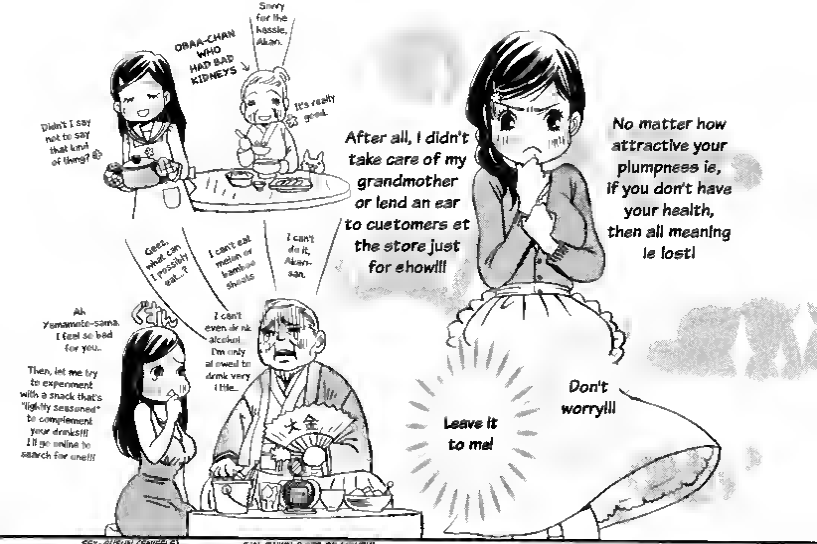
SFX: FURU FURU FURU... (TREMBLE TREMBLE TREMBLE...)
Bodoro!
Bodoro!!!
SFX: BAIIN (BOING)
SFX: DN
SFX: KASHIKASHI (GRAB)
SFX: BAIIN (BOING)
どんっっ
SFX: KASHIKASHI (GRAB)
MOMO-CHAN!?
WHAT'S WRONG?
Where's Onee-chan?
フル
フル
フル
AH... BUT LATELY,
I SOME-TIMES GO OVER TO A FRIEND'S HOUSE TO EAT DINNER...
HM?
KIRIYAMA, IS THIS YOUR FRIEND?
AH...
UM...
YEA
JUST NOW, IF I AM NOT MISTAKEN
IT SEEMS THAT I HEARD THIS ONE CALLING ME "BODORO."
SFX: KASHIKASHI (GRAB)
TRANSLATOR'S NOTE:
MEAN TOYS / NET ... REALLY NEGATIVE MEANING OF SPIRECH IT MAKES ONE EARMAROTH FAMILY BE SAMES MORE OLD-FASHIONED.
SFX: KASHIKASHI (GRAB)

WELL,
I DO SENSE A DEEP CONNEC-TION...
ALL RIGHT, LITTLE ONE, LET ME ASK FOR YOUR NAME... WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
WITH THE "INTELLIGENT" PART...
THAT FAMOUS ANIMATED FILM LOVED BY CHILDREN AND ADULTS ALIKE (I ALSO REALLY ENJOYED IT)
BODORO SHOULD BE THAT?
THAT MYSTERI-OUS...
ABOUT AN "INTELLIGENT LIFE FORM" WHO LIVED IN THE FOREST
SFX: POKAN (DUMBFOUNDED)
SFX: FU (HMPH)
Momo!
WHERE IS YOUR HOME? I SHALL TAKE YOU BACK.
Momo-chan seems to be really happy (Happier than with me)
ALL RIGHT THEN MOMO-KUN, GIVE ME YOUR HAND
GENTLEMAN
bodoro
THE CARS PASSING BY ARE QUITE DANGEROUS

Ah.
There she is! Momo ★
She's with Kiriyama-kun!!
Hey, Kiriyama-kuun!
Why is her face all red!?
UM... REI-KUN
THIS IS...?
Eh!? Akari-san!?
SFX: KIRI (SHARP)
U-UM
It can't be.. Akari-san's love at first sight...
UM FROM MY CLUB...
THIS IS UH, FROM SHOGI...
NICE TO MEET YOU!
I AM KIRIYAMA-KUN'S BEST FRIEND.
MY NAME IS NIKAIDOU HARUBOU.
Is this guy!?
SFX: HAKI HAKI (U-NNCESS)
Have you eaten yet? If you don't mind, would you like to come over for dinner?
SFX: MUSU MUSU (CHUBBY)
Onii-chan is "feeding someone else's kid again!?"
Eh!?

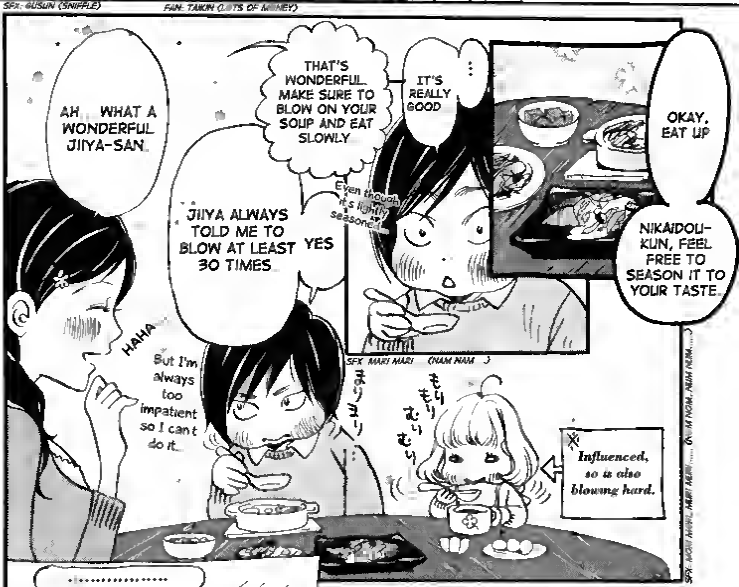
With utmost appreciation. It would certainly be my pleasure!!
SFX: ぺこり (SMACK)
Huh... Ah!
Hey~ Hey~ Bodoro, fold some more!
THIS HOME IS QUITE OLD ISN'T IT
IT LOOKS LIKE A MOVIE SET
CLOTH: KIN (GOLD)
FLAG: NIHON ICHI (JAPAN #1)
SFX: MOCCHIRI (MOCHI-LIKE)
もっち
SFX: HOU (BLOW)
ホウ
No. No. Hina you don't have to apologize.
S-Sorry Kiriyama-kun.
SFX: POOO (DAZED)
プリプリ
つやたまっ
SFX: TSUYA TAMAMU... (GOLD IS AND SHINY ~)
SFX: FUWA FUWA (FLUFFY)

SFX: BAKI BOKI BOKI... (BAKUMA BAKUMA BAKUMA BAKUMA...)
SFX: TOKUN TOKUN... (DAPHNE BADUMP...)
Sorry... One-chan's quirk is for round and plump things I really am very sorry!
Like... a ball, !? I've never heard someone describe a friend like that.
HE'S LIKE A ROUND, SHINING BALL.. WHAT A WONDERFUL FRIEND..
AH... KIRIYAMA-KUN, WHAT SHOULD I SAY?
SFX: KYUUN
SFX: KYUUN
AH
HAM-BURGER...
NO
PERHAPS A LIGHTLY SEASONED DISH WITH A MODERATE AMOUNT OF PROTEIN
UH... UM, I-I'M SORRY
ANY— ANYTHING WILL BE FINE
I WILL EAT ANYTHING
SFX: RU (GRIP)
KARAAGE? HAM-BURGER?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT?
TODAY WAS SHOPPING DAY, SO I BOUGHT A LOT OF THINGS. I CAN PRETTY MUCH MAKE ANYTHING.
SFX: MOGU (CHEW)
You can't do that... If you want to diet, then that beautiful figure like a ball will... Ah... But then again, he's probably worried a lot, right? He's at that age... Facing obesity at a young age... Ahh!? Could it be even more serious than that?! Could it be...!? He already has Type II diabetes at such a young age!? Or maybe this isn't meat but actually water puffiness? Maybe it's a kidney problem!? That would be terrible...
How strange... It's impossible to depend on such simple dishes to keep such a full figure... Could it be a diet!?
AH... IS THAT THE CASE
I'M SUR-PRISED... YOU HAVE THE TASTE OF AN ADULT
SFX: DAKI DAKI DAKI (DAPHNE BADUMP)
SFX: BAKUMA BAKUMA BAKUMA BAKUMA...)


Sorry for the hassle, Akari.
OBAA-CHAN WHO HAD BAD KIDNEYS
It's really good.
Didn't I say not to say that kind of thing?
After all, I didn't take care of my grandmother or lend an ear to cuetomers at the store just for show!!!
No matter how attractive your plumpness is, if you don't have your health, then all meaning is lost!
Geez, what can I possibly eat...?
I can't eat melon or bamboo shoots!
I can't do it, Akari-san.
Ah Yamamoto-sama. I feel so bad for you..
I can't even drink alcohol. I'm only allowed to drink very little..
Then, let me try to experiment with a snack that's "lightly seasoned" to complement your drinks!!! I'll go online to search for one!!
Leave it to me!
Don't worry!!!

SFX: GUSUN (SNIFFLE)

FAN: TAKIN CUTS OF MONEY)


AH WHAT A WONDERFUL JIIYA-SAN.
THAT'S WONDERFUL. MAKE SURE TO BLOW ON YOUR SOUP AND EAT SLOWLY.
IT'S REALLY GOOD
OKAY, EAT UP
Even though it's lightly seasoned
NIKAIDOU-KUN, FEEL FREE TO SEASON IT TO YOUR TASTE.
JIIYA ALWAYS TOLD ME TO BLOW AT LEAST 30 TIMES
YES
HAHA
But I'm always too impatient so I can't do it.
SFX: MARI MARI CHAM NAM :)
SFX: MORI MORI MURI MURI..... (MMMM, NAM NAM.....)
Influenced, so is also blowing hard.
Neglected by Akari-onei-chan. Somehow or other, quite lonely...

ピンポーン♪
I'M DEEPLY SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU AT THIS HOUR...
I HEAR THAT OBOCCHAMA IS ENJOYING YOUR HOSPITALITY...
OH...
WHO COULD IT BE AT THIS HOUR...?
Oh, Hanaoka! Are you here to take me home!?
SFX: PIN POON (DING DONG)

Ah, Nikaidou-kun? How did you find this place? ★
I USED MY GPS OF COURSE...
AHEM AHEM HACK COUGH
AH, EXCUSE ME...
I JUST HAPPENED TO PASS BY—
My lungs are just—
SFX: GOFUN GOHON (COUGH COUGH)

No matter where or when, Jiiys always comes to take me home!
hehe
Ever since I was a child it's been like that, like magic!
Magic!?
Wait, Nikaidou! I think you're being stalked!?
Just now, that person said GPS!! He definitely did!!!
SFX: KYAA (SHRIEK)

UM THIS IS...
IF YOU DON'T MIND, PLEASE SHARE THIS WITH EVERY-ONE
IT'S FROM AROUND HERE, SO YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW OF THIS, BUT...
IT'S MY FAVORITE SNACK.
OH MY
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO
AH...
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE!
I REALLY LIKE EATING THIS TOO!
Very much so!

BOX MIKAZUKI CAKES

UM IF YOU'D LIKE PLEASE COME IN AND SIT.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT WITH US? WE'LL MAKE SOME TEA!!
OH...
IF IT'S ALRIGHT, THEN I'D LOVE TO.
PLEASE COME IN!
HINA, CAN YOU BOIL SOME WATER?
Yes.

Chapter 8 end

NOTES from the translators

Page 03

Static rook is where the player does not move the rook at the start For shogi openings, some people tend to only use static rook Others only use ranging rook, while some will use both

Bishop exchange is where the white player (second to go) trades their bishop with their opponent's bishop on 8h

Ranging rook is where you shift the rook to the left hand side or the central file

Page 05

A *kifu* is a record of a game such as shogi or go

Page 06

Yoshidaya is a reference to the actual chain Yoshinoya a leading fast food chain in Japan famous for its beef bowls

Page 07

Bodoro is a reference to Studio Ghibli's 1988 film *Tonari no Totoro*

Page 10

Bottom panel on the left is Kintaro and on the right is Momotaro heroes from Japanese folklore

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

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Proofreader	Laika_Lenners
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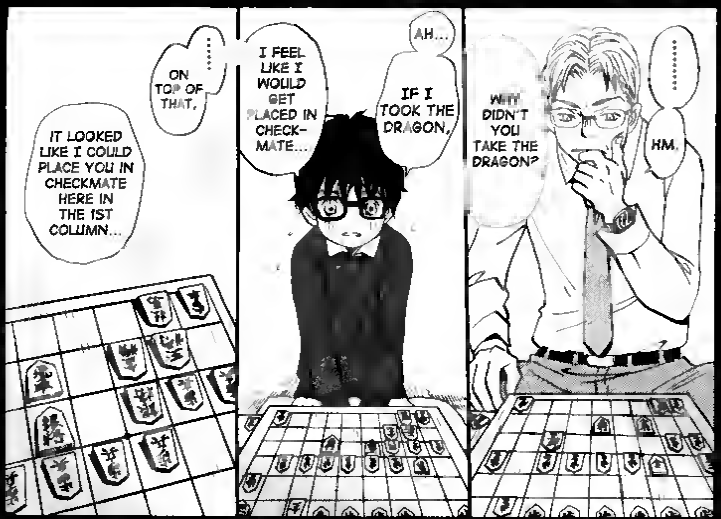
Publisher	Hakusensha
Magazine	Young Animal

3月のライオン

Chapter 9
A Contract

He was a friend of my father.


IT LOOKED LIKE I COULD PLACE YOU IN CHECKMATE HERE IN THE 1ST COLUMN...
.....
ON TOP OF THAT,
I FEEL LIKE I WOULD GET PLACED IN CHECK-MATE...
AH...
IF I TOOK THE DRAGON,
WHY DIDN'T YOU TAKE THE DRAGON?
.....
HM.

NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT.
REI-KUN WAS HERE TO BE MY OPPONENT
I FEEL BAD FOR MAKING YOU WAIT.
I HAD AN EMERGENCY PATIENT.
KOUDA, SORRY I'M LATE...
OH, GOOD WORK.

Even though he was my father's friend,
every time he came,
I would get nervously happy for no reason.

THOUGH I'D LIKE IT IF HE PLAYED OUTSIDE A BIT MORE.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN PUTTING A LOT OF WORK INTO IT.
IT FEELS VERY MUCH LIKE THE WAY YOU USED TO PLAY SHOGI
REI-KUN MADE A VERY INTERESTING MOVE JUST NOW.
I just couldn't make any friends.
Whether it was in the neighbourhood or at school, I was always the kid that got bullied.
My father and he went to the shorei-kai together a long time ago.
HE'S SORT OF LIKE ME IN THAT WAY...
I GUESS.

My shogi wasn't very good,
but because it was quality time I could spend with my busy father,
I worked very hard at it.

Even though he was an adult, he would always address me seriously.
..I knew this.
But each word that the person sitting on the other side of the shogi board said...
left a deep impression on my heart.
I was never able to take part in the conversations of my classmates.
No matter what, I was never able to keep up.
I always felt like I was listening to a different language.
RRRR
RRR...
He was the only one, outside of my family, who did that...

EH?
YOU WANT ME TO PICK UP MOMO-CHAN FROM PRESCHOOL?
BECAUSE OBA, SHE...
AH, YOU'VE MET HER BEFORE, RIGHT?
SHE'S THE BOSS OF, "MISAKI", THE PLACE I WORK AT.
SHE ACCIDENTALLY FELL OFF THE STAIRS AND HURT HER LEG WE'RE AT THE HOSPITAL RIGHT NOW
Sigh
BOOK "SHOGI WORLD"
HINA IS AT HER CLUB RIGHT NOW, SO I CAN'T CONTACT HER...
OJII-CHAN IS STILL WORKING AT THE STORE.
I'M SORRY.
COULD YOU DO THIS FOR ME?
Momo-chan!
Some-one's here for you!
Coming!

Ah! It's Rei-chan!!
HELLO...
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HAVING FUN
Runda Runda Runda
MOMO-CHAN, WHAT'RE YOU SINGING?
It's the cat song!! Oh, umm,
Do you know it?
TAG MOMO
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD IT
NOPE
ピュクッ
Ah!
SFX SYUNA (HEOSHI)

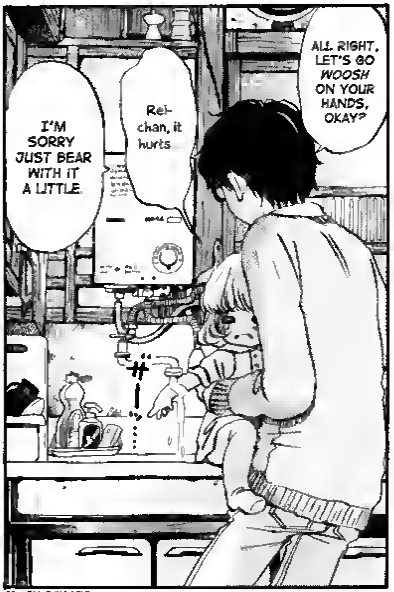
STOP THAT, SHIRO!
WOOF! WOOF! KYA! WOOF!
Wah-- What a cute girl-- Let's play--
Yaho!!
Kyaaa!! Kyaaa!!
SFX: HAFU HAFU HAFU HAFU (PUFF PUFF PUFF PUFF)
KYA!
It almost fell into the river
AH, GOT IT
SFX: PAN PAN (FAT PAT)
SFX: KORO KORO KORO (ROLL ROLL ROLL)
AHH!
HEY! WAI-!!
NO WOO
Momo's hat--!!
I like you! I like you!
NOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!
WOOF! WO-WOOF!
SFX: HAFU HAFU HAFU HASU (PANT PANT PANT PANTS)
MOMO-CHAN!

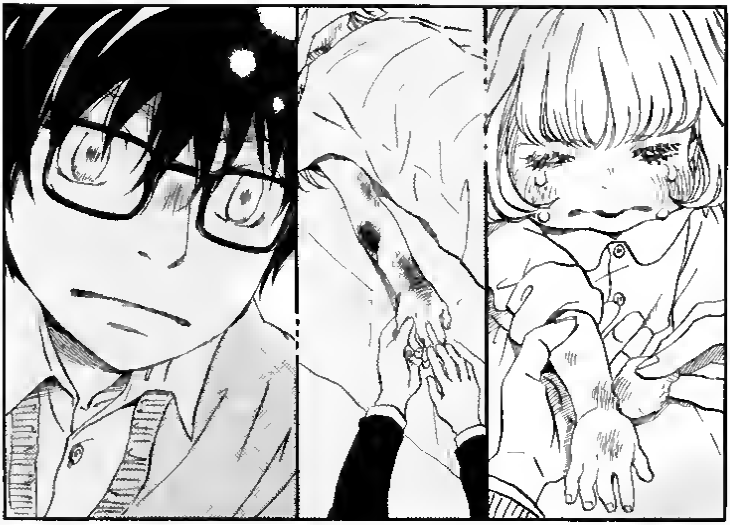
SFX: HAFU HAFU HAFU HAFU HAFU (HUFF HUFF HUFF HUFF HUFF)
MOMO-CHAN!
Hey~ Hey~ Hey~ Little girl let's play~ Hey~ Hey~ Let's play~
K-yaaa
SFX: BASSA BASSA (PAW PAW)
SFX: INTAANN (CRASH)
SFX: BATA BATA (PADDLE PADDLE)
WAH~
WUU.
UU
WUU
MOMO-CHAN, ARE YOU OKAY?
I'm sorry! I'm so sorry
LOOK!
WE'RE HOME, MOMO-CHAN.
IS YOUR FOREHEAD OKAY? YOU DIDN'T HIT IT, DID YOU!?
Ah. I made her cry. I'm sorry.
SFX: SHUN (WILT)

LET ME SEE
...AHH, SAND GOT INTO THE SCRATCH-ES...
FU
LU
SNIFF

SFX: GUSUN GUSUN (WHIMPER WHIMPER)
WE HAVE TO CHECK OUT YOUR SCRATCHES RIGHT AWAY...
WHIM-PER
MOMO-CHAN,
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE FIRST AID KIT IS?
SFX: GARA GARA (RATTLE RATTLE)

OKAY. FIRST DISINFEC-TANTS...
AND THEN
BAND-AGES


ALL RIGHT. LET'S GO WOOSH ON YOUR HANDS, OKAY?
Rei-chan, it hurts
I'M SORRY JUST BEAR WITH IT A LITTLE
SFX: JAA (WHOOSH)



Onii-chan!

REI-CHAN?
.....
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT TODAY
REI-KUN, AH... RE-ALLY
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT SO MUCH
KIDS FALL DOWN ALL THE TIME
Momo doesn't hurt anymore!
REI-CHAN SEEMED REALLY WORRIED
He barely ate any dinner
DID MOMO CRY A LOT TO WORRY HIM?
Momo didn't cry at all!
Huge ties
I haven't had dinner yet nya~
Hey~ I'm thirsty Can you give me some milk or something?
Mmph... So bright.

MOMO SAW!
THE TEARS CAME POURING DOWN.
BUT, REI-CHAN CRIED
EH?
WHY?
WHY DID REI-KUN CRY?
AH...
HE MUST HAVE...
REMEM-BERED.
REI-CHAN, HE ALSO HAD...
A YOUNGER SISTER.

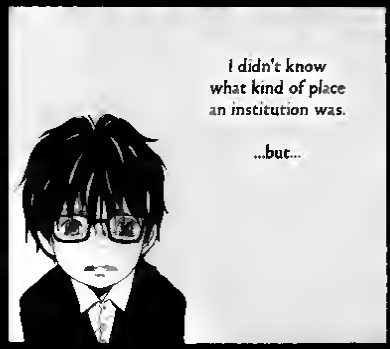
One day, my everyday life
was suddenly torn to pieces...

When they came home from their trip,
my precious father, mother, and little sister...
they had become cold, hard, mottled bodies.

AND OJII-SAMA IS ALREADY SO OLD
NO WAY, SHE WOULD NEVER DO THAT ON HER OWN
ISN'T HIS FATHER'S YOUNGER SISTER, KIWAKO-SAN GOING TO ADOPT HIM?
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THEIR SON?
ALL THREE DIED IMMEDI-ATELY...
I HEAR THAT THEY WERE HIT BY A DRUNK TRUCK DRIVER

BUT OTOU-SAN ONLY HAD EYES FOR ONII-SAN.
THAT'S RIGHT. ISN'T THAT WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING SINCE THE BEGINNING?
OTOU-SAN, IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU STILL HAVE ME!
SOB
SOB
SOB
JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!!

AND I THOUGHT THAT EVERY-THING WAS GOING TO GO WELL AFTER THAT...
I HAD JUST... GOTTEN YOU TO GIVE UP SHOGI.
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO MY HOSPITAL!?
YOU FOOL...


I didn't know what kind of place an institution was.
...but...

POOR THING.
REI-CHAN, I PROMISE I'LL FIND A NICE INSTITUTION FOR YOU.

No matter how painful it was at school up 'til now...

When I returned home to my warm room at night by myself,

I was able to relax.

...but if I went to a place like that,

when I returned, there would always be other people around me... even when I sleep...

I understood that,

out of the 365 days of the year, there would never be a single moment of "relief"...

...and then, he came.

At the funeral, many blood relatives had gathered.

But, at that time, only he who came into my room,

was so familiar to me that I wanted to cry out.

GOODNESS JUST LOOK AT KIWAKO-SAN
THAT WOMAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT
SHH WE'RE IN FRONT OF THE BUDDHA
BUT-!
I'M SAYING THAT THE KIRIYAMA HOSPITAL WILL BE SUCCEEDED BY MY HUSBAND
WHATEVER YOU DO WILL BE USELESS

.....
DO YOU
LIKE SHOGI?

This was the moment the contract was made

Since then, the god of shogi and I...

YES.

For the first time in my life,

I lied...

in order to survive.

...and there was no turning back...

have been wrapped together by that ugly lie

And so, the curtain

was helplessly dropped

and I became a child of a shogi family

Chapter 9 end

NOTES from the translators

Page 03

The *shorei kai* is a society by the The Japan Shogi Association where players are trained to become professional shogi players. If players who entered before the age of 22 do not achieve 4 dan by the time they are 24, they must withdraw from the shorei kai and cannot return.* The Japan Shogi Association normally only allows those who have gone through the shorei kai to enter professionalism.

To apply to the shorei kai, you must be the winner or runner up of a national amateur Japanese tournament in the year of application and have a recommendation by a professional player.

If you entered before age 22, you are given 1 dan status upon acceptance. Players become professional at 4 dan.

* The ages differred with different sources so we are not certain of the exact age limits

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

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QC	kiwish_Foxfire, Elektra
Publisher	Hakusensha
Magazine	Young Animal

3月のライオン

Chapter 10

Over the Cuckoo's Nest

SHORT SLEEVES / SUMMER
BANNER: BENTO FAIR

PACKAGING: SEWING KIT

What awaited me in this house of shogi were

Those who aspired to be shogi players, just like me.
The real children of the family–

Kyoko, the sister who was four years older than me,
WHAT'RE YOU ACTING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY ABOUT!?
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A ZERO!
and Ayumu, a third grader who was the same age as me.
NO
OTOU-SAN, PLEASE, JUST FORGIVE HER!
KYOKO IS A GIRL!
HOW COULD SHE HIT AN OPPONENT WHO DEFEATED HER?!
THIS DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH SHOGI!!!
BUT-!

No matter how you looked at her, she was like a vehement, angry tempest,
it was her stubbornness that caused him to treat her that way.
...Probably,
Father was very strict with Kyoko
in shogi...
in temperament...
and in beauty...
HEY, KYOKO!
WHAT'RE YOU STARING AT ME FOR, BRAT!?
WHAT?
.....

DID HE ACTUALLY CALL YOU "OTOU-SAN"?
WHAT WAS THAT?
JUST NOW
.....
HM?
AH, YES PLEASE
UM, OTOU-SAN
DO YOU WANT SECONDS?

AT HOME, IT SEEMS WRONG TO ALWAYS BE CALLED SENSEI
THINK OF IT AS A "FATHER IN SHOGI".
THAT KID IS JUST YOUR STUDENT!
WHY?
HE'S NOT EVEN ADOPTED! WHY IS HE CALLING YOU "OTOU-SAN"!?
I TOLD HIM TO CALL ME THAT
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
AH
UM, I'M SORRY

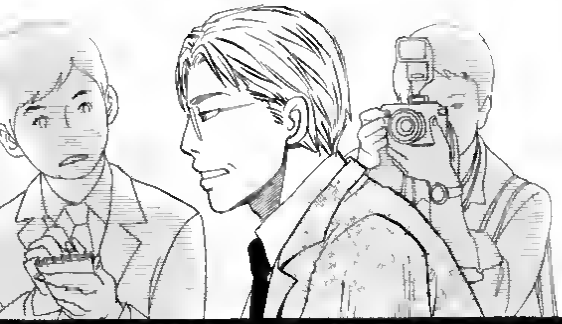
THAT'S AMAZING
REI, YOU BEAT THAT FAMOUS AMATEUR, HASHIMOTO-SAN
OH YEAH, INOUE-SAN FROM THE SHOGI HALL TOLD ME THE NEWS

Father really loved shogi

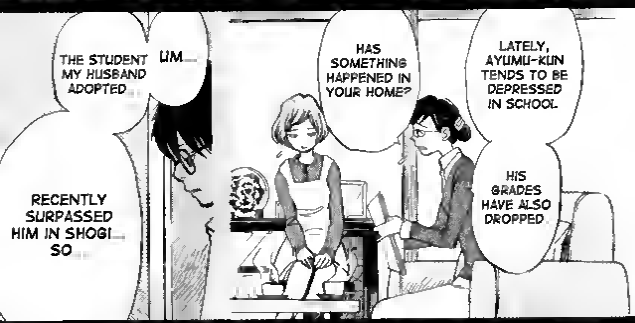
For better or for worse, everything was "shogi-centred"...

And so, those who loved him...

had to become strong



...in order to stay within his sights...


HIM...
THE STUDENT MY HUSBAND ADOPTED...
RECENTLY SURPASSED HIM IN SHOGI... SO...
HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED IN YOUR HOME?
LATELY, AYUMU-KUN TENDS TO BE DEPRESSED IN SCHOOL
HIS GRADES HAVE ALSO DROPPED

And so... The first to be affected by this...

was Ayumu.

IF HE'S NOT A PERSON WHO CAN PUSH HIMSELF FORWARD ON HIS OWN, IT'S POINTLESS.
BUT...
IF HE NEEDS SOMEONE TO PERSUADE HIM TO KEEP PLAYING, IT'S POINTLESS
IMPOSSIBLE
I'VE AL-REA-DY GIVEN UP SHOGI
BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL SHOGI PLAYER ISN'T THE GOAL.
THE ROAD AHEAD OF THAT IS SO LONG THAT IT'S OVERWHELMING.
将棋会館
SHOGI HALL
THE FURTHER YOU GO, THE MORE DANGEROUS IT IS, AND THE LESS PEOPLE THERE WILL BE AROUND YOU
THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN KEEP ADVANCING DOWN ANY ROAD
IS TO BECOME A PERSON WHO CAN MANAGE HIMSELF

EVEN IN 1ST DAN, THERE ARE PLENTY WHO ARE STRONGER THAN HIM.
IF YOU CANNOT DEFEAT REI, IT WILL BE USELESS TO KEEP GOING.
WHY!? WHY DO I HAVE TO QUIT THE SHOREI-KAI!?
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
KYOKO
...IN THE END,
THE ONLY ONE LEFT WAS SOMEONE ELSE'S CHILD?
THAT'S KIRIYAMA'S SON, ISN'T IT?
SO HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO TRAIN HIS RIVAL'S SON, AND HIS OWN CHILDREN BECAME HIS PREY.
HOW IRONIC.

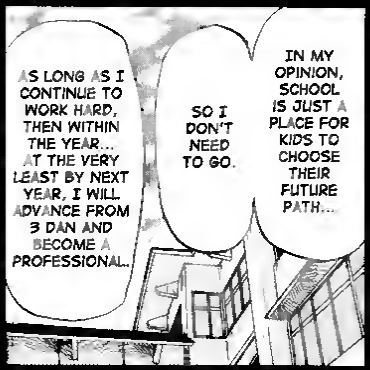
!!
OW....
After that,
Kyoko would spend all her time playing around outside.
Ayumu locked himself in his room, drowning himself in video games.
The time that the three of us spent together was gone.
I, trying to run away from it all,
became more and more and more absorbed in the study of shogi...
And so,

by the end of my second year of junior high, I was just one step away from being a pro .

I had reached 3 dan

Among birds, there is a species that does not raise its children.
This species engages in what is called "brood parasitism".
The Common Cuckoo lays its eggs in the nests of Shrikes or Meadow Buntings.
When the Cuckoo chick hatches, it pushes the actual children of the host parent out of the nest while they are still eggs and monopolizes the nest
Ahh... It's me.
None the wiser, the parents work hard to bring food to the child of another,
the murderer of its own children.
This bird... is me...
Even though the Cuckoo chicks eventually become even larger than themselves...
they keep on feeding them.

I have to leave this family.


AS LONG AS I CONTINUE TO WORK HARD, THEN WITHIN THE YEAR... AT THE VERY LEAST BY NEXT YEAR, I WILL ADVANCE FROM 3 DAN AND BECOME A PROFESSIONAL.
SO I DON'T NEED TO GO.
IN MY OPINION, SCHOOL IS JUST A PLACE FOR KIDS TO CHOOSE THEIR FUTURE PATH...

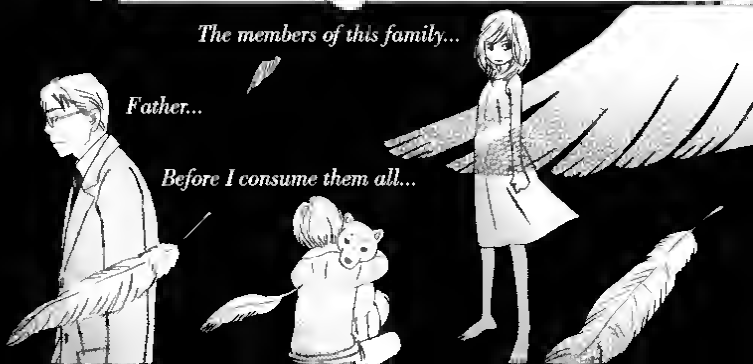
If I don't leave as soon as possible...

I WANT TO CONCENTRATE ONLY ON SHOGI
AFTER I BECOME A PRO, I STILL HAVE TO WORK HARD AND MAKE MY WAY HIGHER
I'LL WIN AND EARN MONEY.
AND I WILL BECOME INDEPENDENT.

The members of this family...

Father...

Before I consume them all...



I am a Cuckoo...

standing on top of the lives that were pushed aside.

I'M REALLY HAPPY.
IT- IT'S OKAY.
HAHA
IT'S REALLY WARM
LOOKS LIKE IT'S TOO BIG.
GO AHEAD AND WEAR THIS IT'S MINE, BUT IT SHOULD BE OKAY
REI, ARE YOU COLD?
HERE.

As they sing of spring, I hear a voice calling in the distance...

And I think,
Thank you,
Otou-san...
if I ever really were a bird...
then...
at least I would...
pass through the days oblivious of such agonizing torment as this.
Chapter 10 end

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

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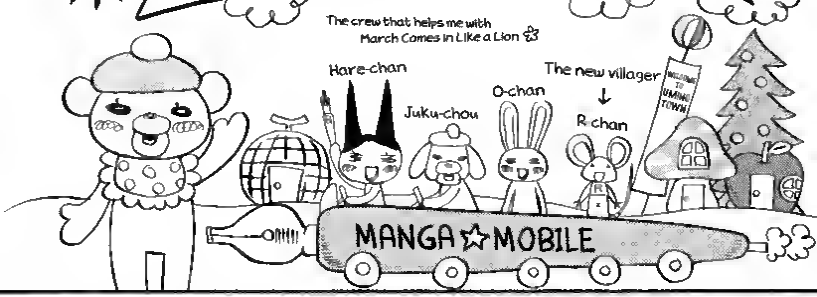
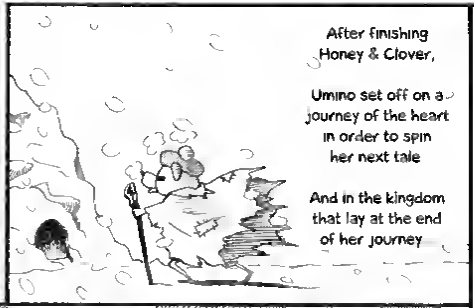
Proofreader	Lemmra
QC	kiwush, Foxfire, XiongMao-kun
Publisher	Hakusensha
Magazine	Young Animal

3月のライオン

Umino and Her Merry Bunch ☆

Nice to Meet You, Animal Version!




After finishing Honey & Clover,
Umino set off on a journey of the heart in order to spin her next tale
And in the kingdom that lay at the end of her journey

Who are you nya!?
Who is it nya!?
and all the people around him
The stories of the boy named Rio
she found it inside a cold, dark cave
Who are you nya!?

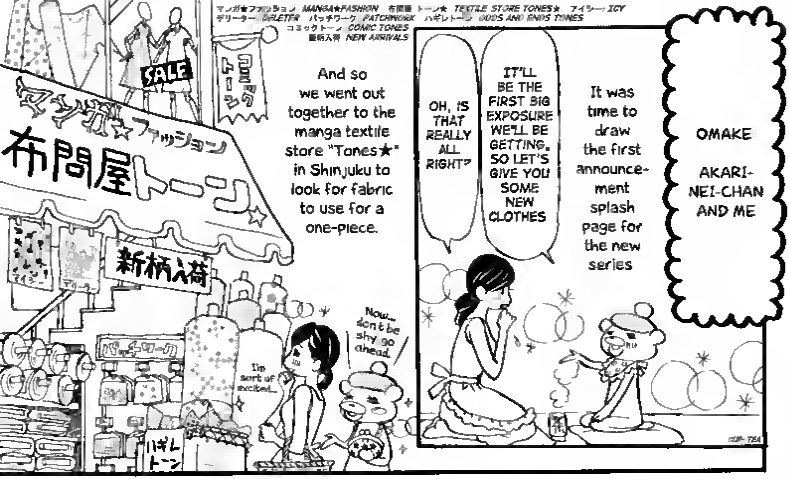
Hello! To those whom I'm meeting for the first time, nice to meet you

And to all of you in the "I've been reading your works forever ☆ group", nice to see you again
I'm Umino Chika

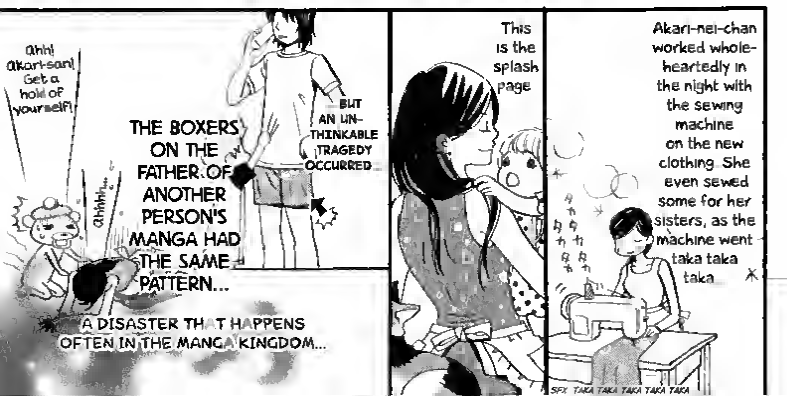
Are you opening it?
and all the people around him
The stories of the boy named Re:
Are you going to open it?
It was this little box
You'll be living here from now on
SFX: RUN RUN (SNIFF SNIFF)
SFX: RUN RUN (SNIFF SNIFF)
back to Umino town
and steadily but wearily set out on a long journey once again.
Where are we going? I'm hungry nya
And so, Umino wearily carried the box upon her back,
OKAY, WE GOT IT!
I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU GUYS AGAIN
Nya
Nya
WHY DID YOU PICK THIS BOX?
THIS ONE'S PRETTY DIFFERENT FROM THAT CUTE BOX FROM BEFORE
She was asked many questions by her friends from the neighbouring villages

EITHER WAY, I SORT OF GREW ATTACHED TO IT...
Oh?
CLIP TEA
Many different people asked me the question "Why this particular theme?" But I wasn't really able to answer them yet
HMM, WELL...
I WONDER WHY I DID
were inside that box
that the things that I "had to think about, no matter what" right now,
What "Either way, I sort of grew attached to it' might've meant was...
But the creation of manga is like an endless soliloquy of questions and answers
SFX: KEKEKEKE (HEHEHEHEHE)
...and to Senzaki Manabu 8th dan, I give my heartfelt thanks for watching over me with his shogi and his brilliant essays on this journey of mine
Eh... is it here? Come out, come out!
Wah- "Umino, behind us!", he would say
REI
And I thought, if I could just somehow earnestly watch over Rei-kun while we're together on our journeys of "indecision" and "deep contemplation"...
SFX: KEISKE (HEHEHE) SFX: GOTSU GOTSU GOTSU (POKE POKE POKE)

Umino and Her Merry Bunch to be continued


マンガ☆ファッション MANGA☆FASHION 布問屋トーン本 TEXTILE STORE TONES★ アイテー ICY
デリーター DELETER パッチワーク PATCHWORK ハギレトーン ODDS AND ENDS TONES
コミックトーン COMIC TONES
最新入荷 NEW ARRIVALS
SALE
マンガ☆ファッション
布問屋トーン
新柄入荷
ハギレトーン
And so we went out together to the manga textile store "Tones★" in Shinjuku to look for fabric to use for a one-piece.
I'm sort of excited.
Now... don't be shy, go ahead.
OH, IS THAT REALLY ALL RIGHT?
IT'LL BE THE FIRST BIG EXPOSURE WE'LL BE GETTING. SO LET'S GIVE YOU SOME NEW CLOTHES
It was time to draw the first announcement splash page for the new series
OMAKE
AKARI-NEI-CHAN AND ME

Oh, it's wonderful! But is it really okay?
How about this one?
Hehehe
The two were lost in indecision over selecting an appropriate manga fabric (tone) for the glorious announcement splash
DELETER
COMIC SCREEN
In here, fabrics for use in manga with all sorts of patterns and prices were lined up. It was customary for the inhabitants of the manga kingdom to put together their outfits here.


Ahh! Akari-san! Get a hold of yourself!
Ahhh...
THE BOXERS ON THE FATHER OF ANOTHER PERSON'S MANGA HAD THE SAME PATTERN...
BUT AN UN-THINKABLE TRAGEDY OCCURRED
A DISASTER THAT HAPPENS OFTEN IN THE MANGA KINGDOM...
This is the splash page
Akari-nei-chan worked whole-heartedly in the night with the sewing machine on the new clothing. She even sewed some for her sisters, as the machine went taka taka taka
SFX: TAKA TAKA TAKA TAKA TAKA

VIRTUAL WALKING MAP
Road
Bridge
Park
Large Building
Shrine
Convenience Store
Gas Station
RIVER
BRIDGE
SCHOOL
Do your best
STATION
EXIT 1
EXIT 2
EXIT 3
EXIT 4
EXIT 5
EXIT 6
EXIT 7
EXIT 8
EXIT 9
MORI-DORI STREET
March comes in like a lion
HOW TO USE THIS VIRTUAL WALKING MAP
Take volume 1 of "March Comes in Like a Lion" and this map and let's go to Taukishima, Tokyo!
<Toukishima Subway Station>
Tokyo Metro
Toei Oooda Line
View the scenery in 360° through the View Points. The world of "March Comes in Like a Lion" lies in various places. Enjoy the virtual stroll!!
Virtual View Point
(A) P 37 (Chapter 2)
(B) P 71 (Chapter 4) / P 185 (Chapter 5)
(C) P 84 (Chapter 4)
(D) P 160 (Chapter 9)
(E) P 54 (Chapter 3)
(F) P 135 (Chapter 8) / P 149 (Chapter 9) / P 167 (Chapter 10)
(G) P 107 / P 109 (Chapter 6)
(H) P 18 (Chapter 1) / P 44 (Chapter 2)
(I) P 16–17 (Chapter 1)